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UN report: Humans accelerating extinction of other species

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

People are putting nature in more trouble now than at any other time in human history, with extinction looming over 1 million species of plants and animals, scientists said Monday.

But it's not too late to fix the problem, according to the United Nations' first comprehensive report on biodiversity.

"We have reconfigured dramatically life on the planet," report co-chairman Eduardo Brondizio of Indiana University said at a press conference.

Species loss is accelerating to a rate tens or hundreds of times faster than in the past, the report said. More than half a million species on land "have insufficient habitat for long-term survival" and are likely to go extinct, many within decades, unless their habitats are restored. The oceans are not any better off.

"Humanity unwittingly is attempting to throttle the living planet and humanity's own future," said George Mason University biologist Thomas Lovejoy, who has been called the godfather of biodiversity for his research. He was not part of the report.

"The biological diversity of this planet has been really hammered, and this is really our last chance to address all of that," Lovejoy said.

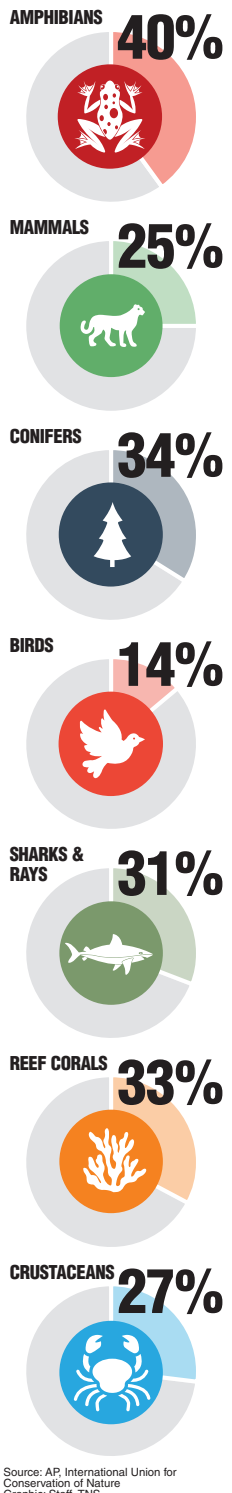
Conservation scientists

See EXTINCTION on Page 4

Historic loss of species

More than 1 million species of plants and animals are threatened with extinction by humans according to a biodiversity report released by the United Nation.

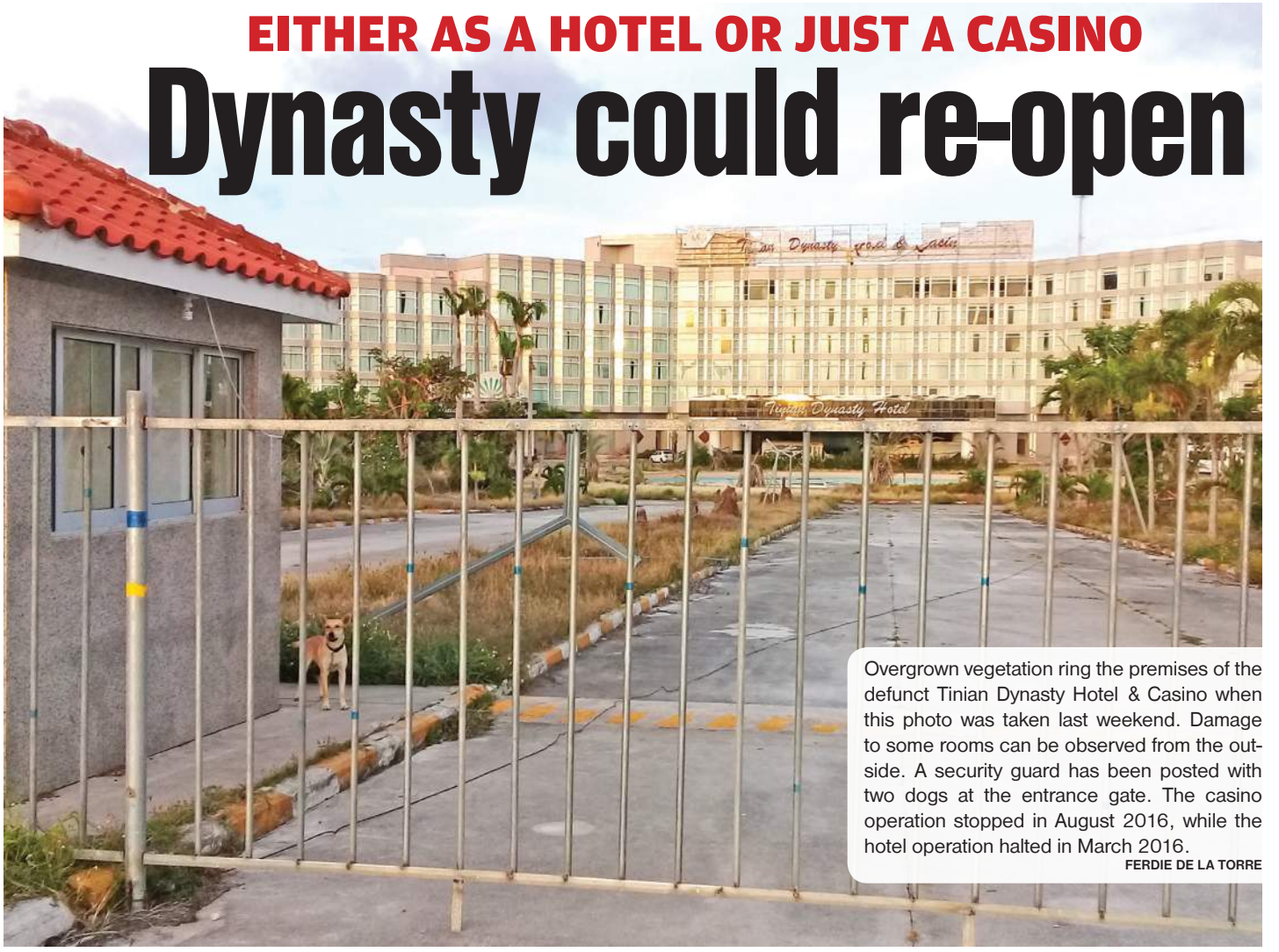
Species at risk for extinction



Source: AP, International Union for Conservation of Nature
Graphic: Staff, TNS

EITHER AS A HOTEL OR JUST A CASINO

Dynasty could re-open



Overgrown vegetation ring the premises of the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino when this photo was taken last weekend. Damage to some rooms can be observed from the outside. A security guard has been posted with two dogs at the entrance gate. The casino operation stopped in August 2016, while the hotel operation halted in March 2016.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

TINIAN—Mega Stars Overseas Ltd., which has management rights over the defunct Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, is still looking at an opportunity to re-open the property, either as a hotel or just a casino, according to Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan.

See DYNASTY on Page 4

Brush fire takes a night to contain

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The brush fire that engulfed hectares of vegetation in the Evergreen area last Monday took an entire night to contain, according to the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

The brush fire erupted near the Evergreen Market below Mt. Ta-

See FIRE on Page 4

Still living in a tent and still hoping for aid

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Third part of a series

Editor's Note: This is part of a continuing series of articles where Saipan Tribune *examines the continuing impact of Super Typhoon Yutu, more than six months since it*

See TENT on Page 4

Jovito Iglesia Jr., left, and his friend, Mariano Lozandi, pose in front of a tent, where they both still live in San Jose, Tinian, after their apartment/barracks were destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu last October.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

INSIDE

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The launch of the AMP quarter last week drew many numismatists from the United States.

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LOCAL
The Class of 2019 of the Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter had its first retreat.

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LOCAL
Four months after Super Typhoon Yutu, life remains challenging for the WSR Elementary School.

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Local

AMP coin launch draws numismatists

BY BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Numismatists may not be a dime-a-dozen—pun intended—but it is not the name of a new planet. Numismatist is what you call a coin collector. The hobby of coin collecting is called numismatic.

The launch, therefore, of a new quarter last week that featured the CNMI's American Memorial Park was catnip to many numismatists from the U.S. mainland, who came all the way to Saipan to witness the event.

Miller

One of them is Mark Miller from Pennsylvania, who said that he has witnessed 18 or 19 out of the 47 U.S. quarter design launches. "Some coin collectors that are also here have gone to way more events than me. Traveling for coin launches is not really a thing for all coin collectors but it is just something that I am able to do."

"I have a lot of fun travel-

See AMP on Page 3

U.S. Mint director David Ryder talking to coin collectors from the U.S. mainland at the "Coin Forum" held at the American Memorial Park Visitor Centre Theatre in Garapan on April 29. BEA CABRERA

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Number of weekend arrests go down

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has reported a decrease in weekend arrests in the last two weeks.

According to DPS spokesman Adrian Pangelinan, the number of weekend arrests in the last two weeks alone has seen a significant drop.

Last weekend, DPS reported just eight arrests from Friday up until 11pm on Sunday. The previous week, DPS reported 14.

Pangelinan said the weekly report of arrest tallies has only been revived in the last two weeks.

The intent of the weekly report, Pangelinan explained, is to keep the community informed of police activity over the weekend.

Most of the arrests are DUI (driving under the influence)-related, so with the information circling weekly, the community is aware and can take the necessary precautions.

Also, the report intends to show that DPS responds to 911 calls and is performing the necessary arrests.

The report also includes the number of active calls over the weekend. Pangelinan explains that active calls are calls that are not considered false alarms and are calls that require police to look into them.

Last weekend, police were dispatched to 60 different calls that included auto-related incidents, civil matters, criminal mischief, distressed vessels, disturbing the peace, domestic violence, driving under the influence, illegal possession, indecent exposure, injured person, robbery, stolen vehicle, suspicious vehicle, and theft.

The previous week, police were dispatched to 80 calls which included auto-related incidents, civil matter, criminal mischief, criminal trespass, disturbing the peace, domestic violence, driving under the influence, injured person, stolen vehicles, and theft.

DPS would like to remind the community not to hesitate when calling 911 because dispatch and local police officers are standing by to respond promptly.

OPD wants psychiatrist to testify via Skype

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Defender wants its psychiatric expert, Dr. Martin Blinder, to testify via video conference such as Skype or a similar service at a hearing in a murder case.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, counsel for Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, said that Blinder has been retained to give expert testimony in the case and was listed on Parongan's witness list.

Blinder is based in California.

Zona said Rule 26 of the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure provides that "testimony at trials shall be taken orally and in open court unless otherwise provided by an Act of the Commonwealth or a rule adopted by the court."

Zona

Zona said that allowing Blinder to testify via video conference saves the CNMI taxpayers the expense of paying him to come to the CNMI himself.

This, she said, also allows Parongan—an indigent defendant—to retain experts for his defense.

Parongan is being charged with first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, and assault with a dangerous weapon, over the killing of his landlord and injuring the landlord's husband in Chalan Kanoa in October 2017. He is claiming temporary insanity as his defense. Through his counsel, Parongan has asserted in July 2018 a plea of not guilty for reason of insanity.

Last November, assistant attorney general Robert Lee disclosed to the court that the prosecution's own expert had already evaluated Parongan.

Police said that Parongan had admitted to being high on drugs and being drunk on the day of the incident.

The woman suffered multiple stab wounds, while her husband sustained 12 injuries in different parts of the head and body.

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AMP

From Page 2

ing around and I find each one of these events has its own unique flavor and character to it," he added.

The launch last week in Garapan was the 47th quarter coin design of the U.S. Mint under its America the Beautiful Quarters program. The new coin features the park on the tail side of the U.S. quarter.

Miller got started 20 years ago when he began collecting statehood quarters. "It got sillier from there. I found the statehood quarters interesting and, when I go to the bank to get the new statehood quarter, family and friends would instantly know and I would give some to them," he said.

"There is kind of a general statement for any 'collecting,' whether it is art or exotic chinaware. A lot of people think and mistake it as, 'Ohh, I want collect this stuff because it's going to be worth something someday.' It's really the wrong perspective to have," he said.

Miller collects coins because of the "art" that goes into designing and making a coin.

"A lot of people do not think of coins as an artwork but it is absolutely art. So, while I'm collecting coins, I'm actually also collecting art," he said. "There are actually some beautiful and intricate artwork involved in [crafting] the coins."

According to U.S. Mint director David Ryder, who was at last week's launch, revenue from commemorative and cer-emonial coins amount to at least $200 million a year.

He said that U.S. Mint projects include partnering with allies such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and Spain.

A joint program they did with Australia, called the Apollo men quarters project, about $50 million in revenue.

Ryder said that the U.S. Mint is vigilant in fighting counterfeiting.

"China has become a real problem as they will counterfeit anything for profit and they are very good at it and that is why we are always protecting ourselves. The metals that we use are very prevalent in a lot of countries, which is why I am considering [using] new metals," he said.

"A simple machinist with a good machine can print out a pretty good dime. …If you counterfeit enough of them and…your net profit at the end of the day is 18 to 19 cents [for quarter], that's not bad business.

"The U.S. Mint never had an anti-counterfeiting program… and so I have set up and spent a fairly large amount of money to get new staff and technology to try to take care of a not so simple problem…" he added.

As for Miller, his next stop after the CNMI is Guam for the "War in the Pacific National Historic Park"quarter launch that will be held on June 3, 2019. "I am looking forward to it as it is another piece to add to my collection. You see, it's also not only the coins, but the memories that goes with it in every launch in a different place," he said.

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PSS, BOE in a financial pickle

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A financial dilemma looms over the Public School System and the Board of Education as another round of financial austerity measures take effect.

The BOE was informed yesterday by key members of the PSS leadership—finance director Chris Ching and acting Education commissioner Lynette Villagomez—that a second round of austerity measures would cost PSS an estimated $7.1 million.

The austerity measures are being attributed to the lingering impact of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Villagomez explained that, of the $42 million appropriated to PSS for fiscal year 2019, a total of $15.6 million has already been transferred as of April 26, 2019, leaving the central government owing only $26.1 million. Minus the estimated $7.1 million in austerity measures, PSS would be left with only $19.3 million.

For the remainder of fiscal year 2019, PSS expenses includes $17.5 million for payroll, $2.2 million for Group Health and Life Insurance, and $750,000 for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. bills—a total of $22.45 million.

If PSS continues to function without any cost-cutting regulations, they would be operating at a deficit of over $3 million.

Proposed cuts

Villagomez presented the BOE with two possible cost-cutting routes.

One, to consolidate schools in order to cut down on utilities and employee costs while maintaining the class hours per day and preventing the discontinuation of education.

Two, reducing the work hours of non-certified employees by 10 percent, or eight hours, per paycheck. This means that year-round employees, including PSS management, janitors, maintenance, bus drivers, and more would be the most affected. Villagomez did note that certified employees, including teachers, counselors, and the like would also be affected in the future.

BOE member and Saipan representative Marylou Ada opposed the first option, noting that consolidating schools would only mean more responsibilities and troubles.

BOE Rota representative Herman M. Atalig agreed, noting that a consolidated school on Rota did little to save on expenses.

Both options come with the recommendation to start the school year 2019-2020 in September 2019.

BOE split on work hour reductions

Heated talks on the 10-percent work-hour reduction followed.

Atalig said that he was not informed beforehand of the cuts—as he usually prefers—noting that he is aware of the austerity measures implemented government-wide.

BOE Saipan representative Andrew Orsini opposed cutting down work hours for non-exempt personnel.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that it was "very unfair" and voted against the measure with Atalig.

Both BOE chair Janice Tenorio and Ada voted for the measure. Ada made the motion to approve the proposal while Tenorio seconded her motion.

Tenorio noted that, once the measure is approved by the BOE, there would be a 30-day grace period before the measure is implemented. If the BOE decided to table discussions until the next board meeting in June 2019, it would put off the implementation of cost-cutting measures to July 2019.

According to Ching, if the BOE does not approve the cost-cutting measure as soon as possible, there would be less money left in the PSS pot to cover upcoming expenses, translating to possibly a more severe cost-cutting measure in the future.

Ada's concern is for schools to not shut down and for education to continue uninterrupted.

BOE Tinian representative Philip Mendiola-Long was absent.

With the vote at 2-2, it was essentially defeated. However, after a second executive session, the BOE agreed to go into recess to discuss further how the cost-cutting measures would be implemented to garner approval.

Villagomez was given until today to submit a new cost-cutting proposal, and the BOE members have until this Thursday, 1pm at the BOE building on Capital Hill to vote on the measure.

"Opening schools in September would save more on utilities… That would leave us with another month of savings," said Ada in an interview. "We need all of the savings we can get from here on until the end of fiscal year [2019]," she said.

EXTINCTION

From Page 1

convened in Paris to issue the report, which exceeded 1,000 pages. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) included more than 450 researchers who used 15,000 scientific and government reports. The report's summary had to be approved by representatives of all 109 nations.

Some nations hit harder by the losses, like small island countries, wanted more in the report. Others, such as the United States, were cautious in the language they sought, but they agreed "we're in trouble," said Rebecca Shaw, chief scientist for the World Wildlife Fund, who observed the final negotiations.

"This is the strongest call we've seen for reversing the trends on the loss of nature," Shaw said.

The findings are not just about saving plants and animals, but about preserving a world that's becoming harder for humans to live in, said Robert Watson, a former top NASA and British scientist who headed the report.

"We are indeed threatening the potential food security, water security, human health and social fabric" of humanity, Watson told The Associated Press.

It's also an economic and security issue as countries fight over scarcer resources. Watson said the poor in less developed countries bear the greatest burden.

The report's 39-page summary highlighted five ways people are reducing biodiversity:

■ Turning forests, grasslands and other areas into farms, cities and other developments. The habitat loss leaves plants and animals homeless. About three-quarters of Earth's land, two-thirds of its oceans and 85% of crucial wetlands have been severely altered or lost, making it harder for species to survive, the report said.

■ Overfishing the world's oceans. A third of the world's fish stocks are overfished.

DYNASTY

From Page 1

In an interview over the weekend, Aldan acknowledged that Tinian Dynasty is going through a tough time, but that the municipal government does have an open line to Mega Stars' representatives.

Aldan said they are encouraging Mega Stars to consider just opening the hotel for now.

He disclosed that they will be meeting in a couple of weeks with the shareholders of Mega Stars to discuss the company's options.

He said the island has only 52 or so available rooms for tourists. "We really need rooms," he added.

Aldan said that people from off-island and tourists usually just spends the day on the island, despite wanting to stay overnight, enjoy the sunset, and have dinner at the beach.

Saipan Tribune spotted over the weekend a security guard, who has been posted at the closed gate of Tinian Dynasty. The guard also keeps two dogs. A woman later seen entering the premises.

Aldan said Mega Stars hired security guards to make sure that the Tinian Dynasty property is not vandalized or burglarized.

When he became mayor, that's when he learned that a former employee of Tinian Dynasty lives in the barracks at the back of the property.

Aldan said there is no electric power and water supply at the Tinian Dynasty building, but he believes the person who stays in the back of the property was given a generator and some food and water supply in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Tinian Dynasty's casino operation stopped in August 2015. The hotel operation halted in March 2016. Some of its foreign employees are still on Tinian, while others are now working on Saipan and some went back to their home countries.

Fifteen foreign workers have sued Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., owner of Tinian Dynasty, and Mega Stars for allegedly lying to them that they were legally authorized to work despite the denial of their CW-1 petitions.

Tinian Dynasty and Mega Stars have failed to get a lawyer to answer the lawsuit. As a result, the 15 foreign workers are now asking the federal court to issue a default judgment, holding HKE and Mega Stars liable to pay them $4.2 million in damages.

Last year, Chun Wai Chan, a corporate representative of both HKE and Mega Stars, disclosed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the total outstanding liabilities of Tinian Dynasty has now climbed to over $250 million, excluding the $75 million in civil penalty assessed by the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

FIRE

From Page 1

pochau around midday of Monday and took an entire night to contain.

The fire stretched out for miles, even igniting a hill near Kannat Tabla, and wiped out hectares of vegetation in its path.

According to DFEMS spokesperson Bobbi Jean Taisacan, the fire was contained at 5:30am yesterday and was extinguished around 6pm.

There were no fatalities and no homes went up in flames.

Taisacan said the only safety hazard that concerned DFEMS was the thick black smoke that was drifting toward neighboring houses.

The smoke has since cleared after the fire was completely extinguished.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, back in March 2018, a brush fire wiped out 120 acres of vegetation that started in Evergreen and spread to Kannat Tabla hill.

A brush fire also erupted at around 5pm last Monday on Rota. At about 5:56pm last Monday, a call was received on Rota about a brush fire at the Mua area. At about 6pm, wildland unit was dispatched to the area. Upon arrival, firefighters saw that the fire had already engulfed about one acre of vegetation. The fire was contained at about 7pm and no injuries or property damage was reported.

A slew of wildland fires has struck the CNMI since early this year as a result of the current dry weather that started early.

The dry season is expected to end soon, according to the National Weather Services.

TENT

From Page 1

hit Saipan and Tinian in October 2018.

TINIAN— Six months after Super Typhoon Yutu walloped a large portion of Tinian, and with many people already slowly recovering from the devastating storm, Jovito Iglesia Jr. is still living in a tent.

That is mostly because all of his belongings were destroyed by the typhoon and he is now jobless.

"It's very hot in the tent," he said, as he always keeps its flaps closed. If its flaps are open, mosquitoes and flies would fly in.

Two months after Yutu's destruction last Oct. 24 and 25, Iglesia, 52, a obtained a tent through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Temporary Emergency Tent and Roofing Installation Support, or TETRIS, program.

The TETRIS program on Tinian and Saipan ended last February. FEMA then started transitioning many residents into its permanent housing program.

Iglesia, who hails from Southern Leyte in the Philippines, used to live in an apartment room made of wood that he rented. The apartment was destroyed during the typhoon. When Yutu was battering the island, he was at an evacuation center.

The place where his tent was installed is not on level ground, though, causing water to flood the tent when it rains. This prompted Iglesia to dismantle his tent two months ago and move to a nearby tent that is occupied by his friend, Mariano Lozandi, a mechanic.

Iglesia said Yutu destroyed his belongings, mostly electronics and musical instruments worth close to $10,000. Iglesia is a singer by profession.

He is appealing for the second time for financial assistance from FEMA, which, according to him, denied his application as he was not eligible.

Iglesia said he feels sad and stressed because he knows many who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents but were able to obtain FEMA financial assistance, while others who are legally working, like himself, were denied aid.

Iglesia is hoping that FEMA will reconsider its decision, so he could resume his life or possibly return to the Philippines. He has lived on Tinian since 1993.

Iglesia said that, although he loves the island, he is ready to go back to his hometown in Southern Leyte. His two children have already finished college and are now working.

He has mixed feelings about going back to his country. "I don't know how to explain the feeling," he said, adding that he loves the island because it is very peaceful, clean, and people know each other.

A Tinian official, who requested anonymity, told *Saipan Tribune* that those who remain in tents used to stay in apartments/barracks that were destroyed in the typhoon.

The official said FEMA would not give money to repair the damaged apartments and advised the owners to instead get a loan from the Small Business Administration.

The landlords would not get a loan just to repair the apartments. They however, have agreed to let their tenants set up tents in their property.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan said there are about seven to eight households/people who are still living in tents and the mayor's office has been helping them.

"They know where the mayor's office is and they know that its service is 24-7," he said.

Aldan said about 90 percent of the island's households and businesses now have access to electric power and water supply.

Attao: We're going to work with what MPLT gives

House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) said it will be up to the Marianas Public Lands Trust on how much it could give to the CNMI government as a line of credit, an amount that they would have to work with.

"The governor's letter [to MPLT asked for] $15 million but…if MPLT says it cannot be $15 million, then we will work on what MPLT would give us. We can't determine the number that MPLT would give us," Attao told *Saipan Tribune*.

"MPLT will give us the direction on what fits them best because they are an investment entity. At the end of the day, they…need to provide the number that is workable for them. We can't be the one to dictate and if it is not workable for them, the line of credit is not going to work."

Attao

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had asked MPLT for a $15-million line of credit that will be made through the CNMI Department of Finance to ensure that there would be funds for the Settlement Fund and the payment of bond obligations.

When Attao and several members of the Legislature met with the MLPT board, they also raised the issue of the remittance of $10.9 million in land lease payments. The CNMI Office of the Attorney General, in a report last year, said that all revenues generated from public land leases must be transferred to MPLT as required by the CNMI Constitution.

Attao said he is hoping that MPLT could finally make a decision since time is of the essence with the current financial state of the CNMI.

The MPLT, headed by former representative Martin B. Ada, is expected to meet again as a full board with trustees Maria Frica T. Pangelinan and Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero.

He also clarified that the line of credit is strictly for the Settlement Fund and the payment of the bond obligations. "It is purely for the obligations of the CNMI government. Nothing for operations, contrary to what anybody has said."

He assured that the line of credit, if granted by MPLT, would circulate within the CNMI economy. "They [CNMI Executive Branch] were supposed to pay our vendors, but they are pretty much dry. So, by freeing some of the money and funneling it down to these separate accounts, we can pay the vendors."

"These monies would allow them [vendors] to pay their [gross revenue tax]. These would allow them [vendors] to pay their employees and staff, who would then get taxed; it is a domino effect."

Attao added that the idea for the line of credit is nothing new as MPLT had assisted the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. during the power crisis years ago and the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. "It has been done in the past. This is just something that would help that, so that the flow of the collection would trickle down to other accounts, rather than being sucked all into the Settlement Fund and bond payments. Mind you, those payments are weekly and not monthly. MPLT has also assisted CUC and CHCC." ***(Jon Perez)***

NEWS BRIEFS

Taste of the Marianas every Saturday

The 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday in May at American Memorial Park beginning at 6pm.

Registration is open for the first 10 participants in this Saturday's BBQ Whole Chicken Cook-off, with hundreds of dollars in prizes for the Top 3 winners.

This Saturday's entertainment includes Studio M Show, Saipan International School, Da Kine Band, Tieul Belau, Guam Poksai Chamorro/RCC of Marianas High, and Teivi Maori.

Cook-off registration forms and rules are available on the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

Guam tax refunds now out

HAGATNA, Guam—The Department of Revenue & Taxation and the Department of Administration are releasing over 3,600 income tax refund checks totaling approximately $16 million this week. This will cover all "A" status returns through Jan. 28, 2019.

For inquiries, contact the Income Tax Branch, Department of Revenue & Taxation at (671) 635-1840 or Edward Birn, Department of Administration, at (671) 475-1250. ***(PR)***

Emergency water outage yesterday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. implemented an emergency water service interruption yesterday for the areas of Airport Road Dandan, Lower Dandan, Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road, As Lito, portions of As Perdido, Saint Jude Church and portions of Adobu Drive in Koblerville, and Tottotville.

Customers in the affected areas should have had their water services restored at 4:30pm yesterday.

The water outage was intended to allow CUC's water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged 6-inch transmission water line on Airport Road in Dandan. The Airport Road was closed for the repairs.

As a result of the repair, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664-4282. (PR)

Military training in Open Ocean

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct an open-ocean exercise on May 9, from 2pm to 10pm at the coordinates 13° 26"N/145° 08"E and 13° 42"N/144° 36"E.

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. It is also recommended the public, commercial pilots, fishermen and marine tour operators stay clear from the area during the date and times indicated.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. ***(PR)***

Leisure . Comfort . Kanoa
Celebrate Mothers Day
at the ISLA Café
Kanoa Resort
Treat your Mom to a delicious meal
and celebrate how special she is to you!
Sunday May 12, 2019
11:00am~2:00pm
International buffet with
live carving station
and free flowing
sparkling wine!
$37 adults
$15 kids (4-11 yrs old)
*Resident discount applies with valid ID
Advance Reservations are recommended,
For reservations please call 234-6601 ext. 742/743 Jen, Julie or Elaine
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Saipan

PCF kickoff retreat focuses on NMI economy, tourism

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter, Class of 2019 pose for a photo with Carolinian culture preservationist Lino Olopai, fourth left, front row, historian Genevieve Cabrera, second left, second row, former Marianas Visitors Authority board member Gordon Marciano, fourth left, second row, Rep. Luis John Castro, fifth left, second row, and Northern Marianas Descent Corp. president John Oliver Gonzales, sixth left, second row, after the guests speakers' presentation during the class' first retreat last April 17 at Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Pacific Century Fellows, Marianas Chapter, Class of 2019 listen to the presentation of TanHoldings chief executive officer Jerry Tan on sustainable development in the CNMI during the group's first retreat held at Kanoa Resort last month.

The Class of 2019 of the Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter had its first retreat last April 17 at the Kanoa Resort, with the 18-member cohort gaining a more in-depth perspective of CNMI tourism and economy.

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce and former MVA managing director Chris Concepcion were among the resource speakers. They emphasized how tourism drives the economy of the islands and cited the challenges the MVA is facing as it sells the CNMI to the world. The two also talked about MVA's projects and plans, as well as its partnership with the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and other industry stakeholders.

TanHoldings Corp. chief executive officer Jerry Tan also taked about sustainable development in the CNMI, while representatives of tourism, hotel, gaming, ports, and cultural promotion groups were present to give inputs on the two subjects.

"The first retreat…provided greater insight into the intricacies of how tourism and gaming drive our economy," said Class of 2019 member Kevin Bautista.

"Economic viability in the CNMI is an ongoing struggle with our limitations as a small island market and the externalities that surround our region, but the retreat taught us that diversifying our economy and exhibiting our culture and environment through an innovative approach will yield a higher standard of living for the Marianas for years to come," he added.

Marianas Young Professionals' Nola Hix liked how Tan reiterated the need to have a vision that would optimize economic opportunities for the islands that are in the best interest of the community and its residents.

"He talked about how the CNMI needs a vision of where we want to go and how we want to present ourselves to the world 10 to 20 years from now," Hix said.

"It really had me thinking because I feel that, until we come up with a vision, we really don't know what our islands need and what we can sustain. I think that's what led us into a lot of the issues we have now with regards to unforeseen development, the lack of enforcement, and the need for better infrastructure, etc. We really need a plan on how we can address these issues, and prepare ourselves for economic and sustainable growth," she said.

The other members of the Class of 2019 are Lorenza Aldan, Sheila Babauta, Manny Castro, Christopher Ching, Bonny Cruz, Ricardo Cruz Jr., Clinton Dela Cruz, Kaelani Demapan, Alexis Hofschneider, Amber Lynn Mendiola, Le'An Murphy, Benjamin Petersburg, Michael Sheu, Leila Staffler, and Noelle Macario.

The Class of 2019 will have its second monthly retreat this Thursday, and the group will talk about the government and take a tour of the offices of some local and federal agencies.

"I expect to continue learning from more established leaders in our community and hear more about their advocacies, leadership, and experiences," Macario said. …"No matter what industry we're from, we all have the ability to help and contribute to the economy," she added.

The Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter is a nine-month leadership development program organized by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and modeled after the Pacific Century Fellows of Hawaii. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-BECQ-081
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2019 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY – ROTA BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23. ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A-D)

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB19-CIP/OPD-079
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"LEASE OF ONE (1) CLASS "I" VEHICLE FOR THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM & FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELIZABETH S. BALAJADIA, P.E.
CIP ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ KODEP OGUMORU-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR OF OPD

/S/ JOAQUIN S. REYES
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

MAY 8,2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN. INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL RECONVENE ITS MEETING OF MAY 3, 2019 ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019 AT 8:30 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Roll Call
  ~~B. Election of Officers~~
  ~~B. Adoption of Agenda~~
  ~~C. Adoption of Minutes~~
    ~~1. February 21, 2018~~
~~II. PUBLIC COMMENTS~~
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's / Loan Manager's Report
  B. Legal Counsel's Report – Litigation Report
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Amendment to the DCD Rules & Regulations
  B. Accounts Write-Off
V. NEW BUSINESS
  ~~A. New Loan Application~~
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

MAY 8,2019

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN. HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 3, 2019 WAS CANCELLED DUE TO LACK OF QUOROM. THE MEETING IS RESCHEDULED ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019 IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DCD BOARD MEETING. THE DCD BOARD MEETING CONVENES AT 8:30 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Roll Call
  B. Adoption of Agenda
  C. Adoption of Minutes
    1. February 22, 2019
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  A. Executive Director's Report
    1. Administrative Matters
      a. Personnel Rules & Regulations – Draft
      b. Personnel Matters
    2. Loan Matters
    3. Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters/Economic Development Activities
      a. QC Beneficiaries' Status
      b. CBO Financial Partnership
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  A. Housing Financing
  B. CPA Resolution
V. NEW BUSINESS
  A. Financial Options for Specific CIPs
VI. OTHER MATTERS
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

(AMENDED) NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, May 10, 2019, at 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom located at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (May 3, 2019)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
III. CORRESPONDENCES
IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
VI. OLD BUSINESS
1. None

VII. NEW BUSINESS
1. Tandem Skydive
2. Final Adoption of Proposed Personnel Rules and Regulations - Governor's Directives
3. Amendments to the Personnel Rules and Regulations
  a. Equal Employment
  b. Sick Leave Regulations
  c. Workplace Bullying
  d. ARFF Physical Fitness Exam Regulation
4. Personnel matters: FTE Conversions
  a. Secretary II to Secretary/Tariff Technician (Rota)
  b. Custodial/Maintenance to AOA/Ground Maintenance (Rota)
5. CDA Loan
6. Fiscal Year 2017 Audit
7. SIA PAPI/REIL Installation – Change Order No. 2, CM Amendment No. 3 and Supplemental Budget Request
8. GSN Runway Rehabilitation Repackaging - CM Amendment No. 6 and Supplemental Budget Request
9. Supplemental Budget Request:
  a. Change Order– POS Supply & Installation of Marine Fenders
  b. POS Security Cameras & Surveillance System Installation
10. Car Rental Concessions:
  a. Saipan: CPA-RFP-002-19 Authority Concession Grant CRS-2018-01–06
  b. Tinian: CPA-RFP-003-19 Authority Concession Grant CRT-2018-07–09
  c. Rota: CPA-RFP-004-19 Authority Concession Grant CRR-2018-10–12
11. GPPC, Inc. Lease
12. Hong Kong Airlines Office Lease
13. United Airlines Cargo Facility Lease
14. Adoption of Position Description - Secretary / Tariff Technician

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
• Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation

IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

MAY 6, 2018

Customer satisfaction is No. 1 priority at Safety 1st Systems

Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. is very clear in its focus: It is all about providing quality safety products of different industries and meeting customer satisfaction. This is their mantra in every product that they sell, not only on Saipan but on Tinian and Rota as well.

And that mantra includes carrying a full line of products in most areas of health and safety, whether in the workplace or for one's personal safety.

"Safety should be everyone's business and it should be a part of how we grow as individuals, taking care of everyday things," said Safety 1st manager Emi Agulto. "We have what you need. You come in and you leave with what you came in for, no more no less, and customer satisfaction guaranteed."

Safety 1st has fire safety products like fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, construction safety, first aid products, and hazardous material cleanup products, as well as personal protection equipment like work shoes, clothing lines and gloves, emergency lighting, and products to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, marine safety, eyewear, flashlights and law enforcement products, weather protection, safety signage, and hearing protection.

Standards in the safety industry evolves fast and Safety 1st ensures it grows with it. "We…make sure that…all our products are [OSHA]-compliant. We would undergo random and multiple inspections so we could comply with the standards that OSHA sets…or whenever an inspection would arise," said Agulto.

Safety 1st's biggest customers are government offices and departments such as the Commonwealth Health Center, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the Department of Public Safety, to name a few.

The company also has a price-match assurance.

"Our products are affordably priced and we can guarantee that, if anyone walks in and says a different price is being offered somewhere, we could either beat or match that price with anyone who comes in our door," added Agulto.

Aside from safety products, Safety 1st goes the extra mile in providing safety consultation services, and respirator fit test training (qualitative and quantitative), respirator train the trainer, fall protection training and general industry OSHA training.

Safety 1st also performs portable fire extinguisher inspections, refilling, and canister hydrostatic testing.

Agulto said her team at the store also undergoes extensive product training because they are not selling products for the sake of having a sale—they sell products because the customer needs it.

"Whether big companies, small companies, or even the walk-ins, they have the guarantee that our team will be able to help each and every one with their needs because the team undergoes extensive product knowledge training," she said.

That means that, when the company sells you a flashlight, Safety 1st Systems will help you detail out its functions, use, etc.

"We will tackle whatever request any company would have. Whether that company is big or small, our company is capable of providing what they need," she said.

"Our team works well together as we are like family. I treat everyone as if we are a family so communication and working toward the same goal are our strengths,' she added.

Safety 1st Guam manager David Sellers echoes this, saying that safety is a serious business for the company because, when talking about safety, "we are talking about people's lives and that's the reason why OSHA exists, to make sure that all workers are safe in any type of job they do and Safety 1st is here to provide all the safety products."

Agulto reiterates Sellers' concern about keeping lives safe. "Safety is something we need to always put in our minds. You always have to be prepared, whether at work, school, [or] home and make sure you are surrounded by safety equipment as simple as a first-aid kit," she said.

Sellers is a constant presence at the Saipan branch, giving advice to make sure that the operations is going smoothly under Agulto's management., provide training and supplies support from the Guam office.

Richard A. Pierce originally opened Safety 1st Systems Saipan, Inc. in 1993 as Saipan's first full-service health and safety store. In 2008, Safety 1st Systems Saipan, Inc. merged with Safety Products Micronesia to form today's Safety 1st Systems CNMI, LLC. The new company is owned by Pierce and Manu Melwani in Guam.

Safety 1st Systems is located on Middle Road (across Bank of Hawaii). They are open Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm. Call them at (670) 235-6500. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

BEA CABRERA
The men and women of Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. led by owner Richard A. Pierce.

SAFETY 1ST SYSTEMS CNMI INC
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2019 SPECIAL INVENTORY
CLEARANCE SALE
PROMO PERIOD: FRIDAY, MAY 10 – SATURDAY, MAY 11
CASH, CHECK AND CREDIT CARD SALES ONLY.
20% OFF
All in-stock inventory
30% OFF
Select sizes safety work shoes
50-60% OFF
Special in-stock items
Timberland PRO
PRO SERIES
RED WING SHOES
KEEN
Fire Safety
Fire extinguishers, smoke & fire alarms, marine safety, signs & warning materials, emergency & exit lamps, fire hose & fittings, SCBA (Scott/3M), fire cabinets
Construction & Traffic Safety
Hard hats, safety vests, pants, safety cones & traffic signs, raincoats & rainboots, Pelican cases & sorbent pads, safety harnesses & PPE, caution tapes, hearing protection & ear plugs, safety glasses
First Aid
First aid kits & refills, AED & signage, 3M respirators & masks, medical masks & gloves, CPR supplies, back braces & knee pads, eye wash stations, fire blankets
Safety 1st Systems CNMI, LLC Price Guarantee
Safety 1st Safety CNMI, LLC guarantees to match or price better safety products offered by any on-island competitor.
Guaranteed!! Just ask and show us a verifiable price and we'll give you a better price on any matching safety product.
Training by Safety 1st Systems CNMI, LLC
■ Respirator Fit Test both qualitative & quantitative
■ Respirator Train the Trainer
■ Fall protection (Competent person/Maintenance and Inspection)
■ OSHA Training (General Industry)
■ Free fire extinguisher training

WSR Elementary works to overcome challenges after Yutu

Volunteers led by Precinct 2 Reps. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) take part in a planting event at the William S. Reyes Elementary School last April 22 at the school grounds.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Super Typhoon Yutu barreling through the CNMI four months ago was a very challenging time for all the faculty, staff, and students of William S. Reyes Elementary School.

WSR principal Naomi Nishimura said she knows that other schools equally suffered in the aftermath of the typhoon but the WSR experience was particularly gut-wrenching because it struck so close to home.

WSR was one of the schools in the southern portion of the island that was decimated when Yutu barreled through Saipan and Tinian last October.

Twenty of WSR's classrooms were completely damaged, which is why they are doing double shifts with their classes, Nishimura said.

The trees that surround the WSR field, which used to provide shade to everyone—students, faculty, staff, and visitors alike—were uprooted by Yutu's tornado-like winds.

Schools under the CNMI State Public School System resumed on Dec. 3, more than a month after Yutu. All classes at WSR will remain in double sessions until the end of the current school year.

Nishimura said they have been working with PSS in rebuilding WSR. "The school continues…to work with PSS leaders to bring back all the classrooms that were damaged by Yutu."

"It has been a…challenge. The instructional time has lessened but we are looking forward to opening the school year on a full-day session, as planned by PSS. This school year, all toward the end, will be double sessions."

PSS expects additional aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to repair all damaged buildings.

"Right now, PSS is waiting for the process sheets from FEMA to be able to…repair… our classrooms. …But I do know that there are plans… that don't go as intended," said Nishimura. "If the buildings are not yet…ready before the start of the school year, then we're going to have tents. Like with Hopwood Middle School, where tents will be provided for us."

Students, faculty, and some parents also joined in a planting event last April 22 at the school grounds with the help of personnel from CNMI Forestry, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Educational Services, and private citizen Noel Masongsong.

The project was made possible through the combined efforts of Precinct 2 Reps. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), who also took part in planting other vegetation that would help restore the greenery inside the campus.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-02

SUBMISSION DATE: May 10, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ELEVATOR REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-03

SUBMISSION DATE: May 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"STUCCO REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9770 Facsimile (670)236-9797

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-04

SUBMISSION DATE: May 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"FENCE REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Judiciary
Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP19-JUDICIARY-05

SUBMISSION DATE: May 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"ROOFING INSULATION REPAIRS"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA HUSTISIA / IIMWAL AWEEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/s/JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

CNMI AG backs funding call for the Legal Services Corporation

In a joint effort organized by the attorneys general of the 56 states and territories, the National Association of Attorneys General recently submitted a letter to U.S. Congress and Senate and urged funding for the Legal Services Corp.

"As state attorneys general, we respectfully request that you consider robust funding for the Legal Services Corporation in the fiscal year 2020 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations bill," states the attorneys general in their letter to Congress and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

For nearly 45 years, LSC funding has helped veterans and military families secure important benefits, supported survivors of domestic violence, and provided vital assistance to families facing foreclosure, victims of natural disasters, seniors, and disabled Americans. Today, it is also an essential support for rural and low-income Americans and families affected by the nationwide opioid epidemic.

LSC funding has also fostered public-private partnerships between legal aid organizations and private firms and attorneys across the country which donate their time and skills to assist residents in need. Nationwide, 132 independent nonprofit legal aid programs rely on this federal funding to provide services to tens of thousands of our constituents.

In the CNMI, the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. has made great strides in serving the community by providing to those in need. Advocating for victims, engaging leaders and partner agencies, expanding outreach awareness, and strengthening partnerships are what drives the staff and management of MLSC to be as successful as they are today," said Attorney General Edward Manibusan. "Without continued funding for the LSC, our local agency MLSC and the CNMI community will be impacted significantly."

In a statement yesterday, Manibusan said he is pleased to join with other attorneys general in the U.S. mainland and territories to urge funding for LSC to ensure the nation's most vulnerable individuals continue to receive services. ***(PR)***

Rape case vs Romolor is dismissed

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The rape case against Manolo Romolor that has been ongoing for over two years already has been dismissed with prejudice because the alleged victim in the case does not plan to return to the CNMI for the trial.

The charges were dismissed without prejudice; that means the case cannot be re-filed.

Assistant attorney general Robert Glass made the motion to dismiss the charges against Romolor last Thursday, saying the alleged rape victim had informed the Office of the Attorney General that she will not be returning to the CNMI for the jury trial that was initially scheduled for May 13, 2019. That means the prosecution cannot meet its burden to prove that Romolor is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Glass said that there are more reasons, but the prosecution refuses to get into it.

"While the prosecution declines to go into all the reasons, it was informed by the victim on May 1 that she would not be returning to the CNMI for the trial. Without the complaining witness, the Commonwealth cannot meet its burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt," he said.

Glass said the motion to dismiss is pursuant to the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure. That's true that the prosecution is in the best position to determine if a prosecution should be terminated but the court has some discretion to deny the motion if the motion is contrary to the public's interest or if the dismissal would contribute to prosecutorial harassment due to recharging.

Naraja

However, Glass said since there is no intent to refile the case, the only thing the court would have to consider is the public's interest.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja granted the prosecution's motion for dismissal and vacated the trial date of May 13.

Naraja cited "prosecutorial misconduct" in declaring a mistrial in Romolor's case back on Feb. 15, 2019.

"After reviewing the parties and listening to the arguments, and the audio of the trial, I am declaring a mistrial due to prosecutorial misconduct. The written order will follow explaining the court's reasoning in detail. Briefly, the court would like to note that there were nearly 80 objections against the Commonwealth, a curative instruction to mischaracterization of the Commonwealth, and numerous instances of testifying and inappropriate use of the complaining witness' first name. These excessively large amount of errors infected the trial. …Continued instruction could only shield the jury so much," Naraja said.

The court cited 14 circumstance of mischaracterization of a witness testimony, multiple hearsay issues, multiple instances of lack of foundation, 22 circumstances where the government was testifying during direct examination, and 10 circumstances where the government referred to the victim by her first name.

"…most of these issues would likely not be a cause of a mistrial. However, these issues are not looked at individually…they are examined collectively. Therefore, in a situation such as this, a mistrial was the only course of action," the court had ruled.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-017

ARCHEOLOGICAL MONITORING for LOWER BASE SEWER PHASE 1 – LIFT STATION AND FORCEMAIN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Archeological Monitoring of the Construction of Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This work consists of monitoring and inspection of excavation works for the Lower Base Sewer Project. The consultant also will be required to document and create a final report acceptable by CUC and the CNMI Historical Preservation Office. CUC requires the Project to be completed as per the Request for Proposal (RFP) highlights from the date of award of contract.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Economic Development Authority (USEDA) and the Department of Interior (USDOI). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEDA and USDOI.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 18, 2019 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Proposers are mandated to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference and Site Visit.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-017 Archeological Monitoring for Lower Base Sewer Phase 1 – Lift Station and Forcemain, " to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible Proposers who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing Proposers.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 22th 2019**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie L. Sablan via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org CUC's Purchasing Assistant and to Travis Spaeth, CUC's Project Engineer via email at travis.spaeth@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CHLORINE GAS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Chlorine Gas for Saipan, Tinian & Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-019, Supply & Delivery of Chlorine Gas"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 17, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 1, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water Division, Jr. Engineer via email address-yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email address – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-020

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF TWO SLUDGE DEWATERING EQUIPMENT'S

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the purchase of two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's; one for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Sadog Tasi Wastewater Treatment Plant for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-19-020, Supply and Delivery of Two Sludge Dewatering Equipment's"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than May 23, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Senior at email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai
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CAN THERE BE ANY MORE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF COLLUSION?
HITCH
RELAX, DOOFUS! —THE RUSSIANS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE KENTUCKY DERBY!
OUTCOME DISPUTE

EDITORIAL

Facebook and the fight against hate

Facebook's terms of service are clear: "We do not allow hate speech on Facebook because it creates an environment of intimidation and exclusion, and in some cases may promote real-world violence."

The social network giant draws the line on hate organizations and their leaders who attack individuals based on race, religious affiliation, nationality, ethnicity, gender, sex, sexual orientation or disability.

On Thursday, Facebook announced it had banned seven users it determined were purveyors of hate, including Louis Farrakhan, longtime leader of the Chicago-based Nation of Islam, and right-wing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones. The move was widely seen as a bold broadside against extremists by a Silicon Valley behemoth on the defensive for failing to police itself.

Call it a bold move. Or just plain sensible.

Banning Farrakhan, Jones and the others is a simple matter of enforcing Facebook's rules against users who use their accounts as platforms for spreading hate and bigotry.

Chicagoans are familiar with Farrakhan's vituperative rhetoric. He has called Jews "evil, Satanic," according to the Anti-Defamation League, and in a speech last year said, "When you want something in this world, the Jew holds the door." Jones, founder of the "Infowars" network, has long used Facebook to peddle his conspiracy theory that the Sandy Hook shooting that killed 20 children was a hoax.

Vile though as their words are, Farrakhan, Jones and others are within their First Amendment rights to spew venom from their own platforms. But when they disseminate on Facebook, they agree to abide by content policies set by the social network company. They broke the rules and got kicked off. That's not government censorship, it's an appropriate response to hate.

It's also long overdue. Facebook's previous approach relied on removing individual posts that violated its content rules. That didn't stop the hate-mongering.

In New Zealand, the world saw what can happen when hate co-opts social media. A gunman live-streamed on Facebook as he sprayed gunfire at two mosques in Christchurch, killing 50 people. The 51st victim, a Turkish national, died of his injuries Friday.

Social media companies have a responsibility to patrol and regulate their venues. By stepping up, Facebook did the right thing.

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The Venezuela stalemate

The week in Venezuela ended much as it began: in stalemate, with Nicolas Maduro still in power, Juan Guaido still attempting to topple him and the nation's people in increasingly desperate straits.

See FACEBOOK on Next Page

Vaccination is a social responsibility

By ROBERT B. REICH
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

I remember having measles as a kid. Believe me, it was no fun. Also, measles could cause birth defects if a pregnant women were to be infected. If you were elderly, measles could be fatal.

Eventually, after vaccinations became nearly universal in America, measles was declared eliminated from the U.S. in 2000.

But now the measles are back, already surpassing 700 cases this year, in 22 states. So far, at least 66 people have been hospitalized, a third of them with pneumonia.

What happened? We stopped vaccinating everyone. More than 500 of the new cases are in people who had not been vaccinated.

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention renewed an urgent call for parents to have their children vaccinated.

We stopped vaccinating all children because some parents have had religious objections. Others haven't liked the idea of injecting a live virus into their little ones. Some just never got around to it.

And some parents, succumbing to growing skepticism about science and burgeoning conspiracy theories, believe vaccinations cause autism. The claim has been promoted by Russian internet trolls as well as Donald Trump.

In a 2015 presidential debate, Trump told of an employee with a 2-year-old daughter who "went to have the vaccine and came back and a week later got a tremendous fever, got very, very sick, now is autistic."

Trump has finally stopped pushing this lie. Last month he tersely said "they have to get the shot," which is about as much of a concession to the truth anyone can expect from America's liar-in-chief.

In reality there's zero evidence connecting measles vaccine to autism.

Let's be clear. To eradicate measles—and other dread diseases such as tuberculosis, polio and tetanus (which also protects from whooping cough and diphtheria)—parents must have their children vaccinated.

Parents have a right to choose what happens to their own children, of course. But the right isn't absolute.

Parents who abuse their children may lose custody of them. Courts have ordered that children with cancer receive chemotherapy despite their parent's objections.

There are also the interests of other children and of society overall.

Measles travels through the air. The virus can live for hours after an infected person has coughed or sneezed.

The core issue here is the common good. If enough people are vaccinated, everyone benefits. But if enough people decide to opt out of vaccinations, for whatever reason, they put everyone at a higher risk of contracting disease.

So what's the incentive to get yourself and your child vaccinated when you might prefer to rely on everyone else vaccinating themselves and their kids instead?

Partly it's laws that make vaccination compulsory. Yet right now only three states require vaccinations for children to attend kindergarten without any nonmedical exceptions.

Most states give parents a pass if they have religious objections. Nearly 20 states don't even require that objections be religious—any objection will do.

So the first step is for all states to require vaccinations, or for the federal government to step in and make them mandatory.

But not even a universal legal requirement would be adequate if enough parents were determined to thwart it.

So at the most fundamental level, vaccination comes down to a duty inherent in being a member of a society.

In all sorts of ways, each of us might prefer to rely on everyone else doing certain things so we don't have to—whether following mundane norms such as not littering or of giving up our seat on the bus to an older person, or simply obeying laws that are rarely or inadequately enforced, or taking on more heroic roles like teaching in a poor school, being a social worker, serving in the armed forces or acting as a first responder.

The idea of the common good was once widely understood and accepted in America. After all, the U.S. Constitution was designed for "We the people" seeking to "promote the general welfare"—not for "me the selfish person seeking to do whatever I want for myself and my family."

Yet the common good is no longer a fashionable idea. We celebrate our personal freedom on Independence Day but pay less heed to our interdependence. We relish our Bill of Rights but are less attentive to what might be called our bill of responsibilities.

Some demagogues insist our national identity depends on the whiteness of our skin, our European heritage and our English language. And on keeping "others" out.

Rubbish. Our identity depends on the ideals we share and our willingness to sacrifice for the good we hold in common.

Measles are back, largely because some people have stopped vaccinating themselves and their kids against them. Vaccination against measles and other diseases isn't just a personal choice. It's a social responsibility.

If we really want to make America great again, social responsibility is the place to begin.

Robert Reich's latest book is The Common Good*, and his newest documentary is* Saving Capitalism.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Finapus Marianas

Pot mas ke 40 añus mandaña` hit gi hilu` sakrifisiu para ta adelanta homlu` na hinanau tautauta siha guine na atkipelagu.

Mafañagu sisteman dos pattida gi uttimun siñkuenta siha na sakan. Umatotpe sentimentu dinaña` Guam yan direktamente na relasion yan America guihe na tiempu.

Huñgan ta diskute dinaña` yan Guam lau ilegniha, "No Mas". Magpu` i asuntu ginen ayu na disision niha.

Gi 1972 man-masede Marianas separau na negosiu yan America. I tagogosa na estau pa`gu resuttan ayu na negosiu ni inapprueba nu i Congresson iya America gi mediu sisienta siha na sakan.

Dispues, ta pega attensionta gi manafitmen sisteman `gobietnamentu. Deste 1977 tatutuhun umelihe gobietnota yan membron lehislatura. Namagof sa` felis hinanauta gi disposision asuntun linahyan siha.

Silensiu: Gi halum silensiu, un` soda` ginefsagan katma ni muna`e hau tiempu umatetuye, gi hilu` suanu na pinasensia yan hinimiddi, chumahlau obligasion familia.

Adumididi` `in tutuhun umarikonose kustumbre yan heñiu. Gi hilu` este inna setbe sahyan hinimiddi yan pinasensia para in` adanche gi todu disposision.

Dispues, un` li`e lokue` kustumbren famaguon miyu haye tomtum, mehnalum, pasensia, matatñga, mesñgun, yan taglayu`. Mesklau i grupu ya ginen este `nai un` aregla suanu na mañan disposision pafa `an presisu. Dilikau!

Guaha `nai kulan mamaisa hit gi halum kinalamten i tropa. Patte gi estrakadan obligasion sainan guma`. Tai finagpu`!

Tatnai tristeyu` pot fitme relasionhu yan i Saina. Kontentu siñienteghu maseha mamaisayu` gi pinekathu. Guinaiya yan satabasion ginen i Saina mafattu `nai mas ti ta añgoghu. Yine`ase`!

Guaha `nai malag kantun tasiyu` para bai huñgug pañgpañg napun dikiki` ni kumilulog halum gi inai, katen pajaru gi aire, yan suabe na guinaifen mañglu` gi chagchag oga`an. Nina` huyuñg i Saina!

Gi lemlem tautau, sumen bonitu i uttimu na inestiran kalulot atdau gi mapagahes antes de u faliñgu gi sanlagu. Mas gatbu `an gaige i mikulot na isa ni tumatitiye mapagahes man-rikokohe uchan, sige lagu.

Mas lokue` maribaha burukan i señgsuñg gi minachum atdau `nai man-mama` sena i familia siha. Dispues, silensiu! Deskansu!

Figan: I figan ha`ilas tat tiha aminasa guine siha na petlas. Taigue fuetsan fondu gi moneda para kabales na kinubren nesessidat familia.

Baratu na suetdun popble humogse kase 15-mit na empleau guine. Kulan hulili`e fina`pus tautauta gi papa` un` chatsaga na estau.

Diariu masuñgun haf` taya` niha kontodu nesessidat famaguon eskuela. De dios na sapet gi dos saina yan espesiatmente famaguon.

Hu dimemoria este lokue` na lepblu, pahina pot pahina. Un` popble na guma` familia `nai dumañkulu-yu`.

Puede u guaha mas adelantun ekonomian i tanu` ni siña chumoneg mas fiñkas yan cho`chu` para i tautauta siha.

Adelantun komunidat bisnis sumen presisu gi este na karera. Ginen animun niha muna` guaguaha mas fondun suetdu kontodu nesessidat setbisiun publiku!

Esperansa: Gi halum mattiru, guaha dididi` esperansa giya hita para ta mueba hit ginen ridondun chinatsaga. Gi halum taduñg na hoyun sapet siempre tasoda` kampu para tata`lun umaregla ha`anita.

Hu chage `nos kuantus biahe uttimu suspirus `nai ni mona ni tatte. Hu nañga disposision ginen hilu` ni muna`eyu` dididi` fuetsaghu humagu` mona pasuhu. Sige mona estake manana adumididi` hinasoghu gi halum katsadan didog na sapet.

**Mañgge`:** Huna`e animu umeyag mañgge` gi finu` Chamoru. `In hassu na taya` finana`guen mañgge` gi liñguahita gi eskuelan elementariu. Haf` na mañega este na leksion?

Poresu na hu petsige pot malaguyu` lagse` mañgge` gi liñguahi-hu mismu. Na`mamahlau para bai siña mañgge` gi segundu liñguahe ya popble gi primet. Ti propiu na areglu!

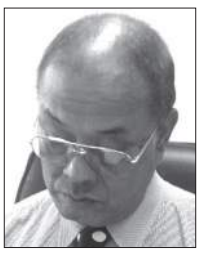
Ti mahñau hu tutuhun maseha sessu-yu` matompu` lau hu petsige sin ditension. I para un` eyag mañgge` unu ha` ha nesessita: fañgge`! Kulan `an ñalañg hau. Uniku remediu i para un` chochu!

Ni kuantu na lepblu yan setmun `an ti un` tuge` pues tai bali`. Adumididi` sige hu pega papa` haf` hinasoghu palabra pot palabra, sentensia pot sentensia estake hu soda` linibianu-hu. Gai atburotu pot hagu solu debi un` kuestiona asuntun linahyan ni un` disidi dumeskute.

Magofyu` ni disision-hu pumetsige este na offisiu gi liñguahihu. Maseha matotompu`yu` ti rason para bai seha pumega papa` haf` hinasog-hu. Kuttura i liñguahe ni haf taimanu na atlibesmu. Sin este kanaha` tai bali otru siha pinetsige.

Siña ti umafagcha` hinasso-ta lau libre hau lokue` tumuge` papa` hinassomu kumu sudadanu. I ideu i presisu gi inana`en hinassu unu yan otru. Homlu` diniskuten asuntun linahyan gi hilu` amtau yan suanu na konbetsasion. Mauleg tafan sessu mañguentus pot inakomprende gi asuntota siha.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

FACEBOOK

From Page 10

The best way out of the mess is for Maduro to step down from the presidency, which he retained through a 2018 reelection widely dismissed as fraudulent. Accommodating that departure would be in the best interests of most parties who claim to have Venezuela's success in mind: the nation's military, neighboring South American nations and the United States.

Maduro took power in this oil-rich country on the death of the charismatic socialist President Hugo Chavez in 2013. He has continued economic policies that have run the nation off the rails, triggering hyperinflation and prompting one in 10 Venezuelans to flee to Colombia, the U.S. and other countries.

The nation's many fractious opposition groups unified around Guaido, the leader of the National Assembly. Guaido declared the Venezuelan presidency vacant—because of election fraud—and took an oath as president on Jan. 23.

On Tuesday, Guaido called for nationwide protests and urged the military to rally to his side, but his effort failed. He remains in the country, not in custody and recognized by the U.S., Canada and much of Europe as the nation's legitimate leader, but with little to show for his "Operation Liberty" movement to oust Maduro. Maduro remains in power, backed by the governments of Russia, China, Cuba, Iran and Syria.

Syria presents one example of how such a crisis can worsen, with Russia opposing the "regime change" sought by the U.S. and its allies. Thankfully, Venezuela has so far avoided either civil war or foreign military intervention. But U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo said Russia had talked Maduro out of leaving, a charge denied by Russia—which in turn has accused the U.S. of intervention.

If Venezuelans, their military, their neighbors (acting individually or through the Organization of American States) or the United Nations cannot persuade Maduro to relinquish his power, it may fall to the U.S. and Russia to work out a deal. That would not be ideal, to say the least; Latin America's democratic development was crippled by Cold War moves that made the region into a chessboard for superpowers. But a peaceful Maduro exit strategy that puts in place a process for fair elections would be far preferable to either outside military intervention or continued violence among and between the already beleaguered people of Venezuela.

(c)2019 *Los Angeles Times*

Words, Things and Other Big Bang Stuff

Dr. Samuel Johnson (1709 -1784) famous author of A Dictionary of the English Language published in 1755, wrote in the preface, " I am not yet so lost in lexicography as to forget that words are daughters of earth, and that things are the sons of heaven." My thoughts on reading that was what about all the other 21st century stuff, words, and things describing the Big Bang and beyond?

Words: Daughters of Earth

Samuel Johnson called words "the daughters of earth"
acknowledging that Earth must be their mother
that is everything from sadness to madness to mirth
of course it must include every single baby brother.
This family with millions of serious and joyful siblings
between whom there is lots of qualms and quibbling
impacts words, packs a powerful punch and wallop
helps all earthlings communicate, tweet, and gossip.
These daughters have sisters and plenty of cousins
their relative families speak thousands of tongues
thousands of languages and dialects by the dozens
dictionaries define them, put them where they belong.
Oh sisters wherefore art thou and what do you mean?
make yourself understood, about meaning come clean.

Things: The Sons of Heaven

Samuel Johnson wrote "things are the sons of heaven"
some things are numbers, Arabic mathematicians gave us zero
we now have a googleplex and lucky number seven
armies, wars, peace, love, all hail the conquering hero
and what indeed are a few of your favorite things?
"raindrops on roses", orchids, sashimi, puppies, kittens
the joy of a babies laugh, sounds when the fat lady sings?
Tinian hot pepper sauce, roast tom turkey with all the fixins
a bird singing its heart out, flowers growing after a typhoon
reef fish, seaweed salad, crab legs from the Arctic ocean
pressure and pencil points, eclipses of the sun and moon
millions of meaningful things going through the motions
billions of stars and galaxies from the heavens come
seen from our friendly blue planet with its life giving sun.

Other Stuff: The Big Bang... and what's become of it

Samuel Johnson knew nothing of the Big Bang and what's become of it
an explosion in space and time, billions of light years later it still rolls
the beginning of galaxies, stars, planets, how and where they fit
surrounded by darkness, dark energy, dark matter, and black holes
a few weeks ago we got the first composite picture of a black hole
it left the world of astrophysicists and cosmologists gawking
at last perhaps here is a glimpse of an invisible universal soul
proving correct theories of Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking
now we have new 'words' to describe these 'things' celestial
way beyond Galileo, Copernicus, and Kepler's imagination
even Isaac Newton's 'Principia Mathematica' would deem it special
considering event horizon, singularity, and darkness of the situation
cosmological theory predicts universal expansion to eternal darkness
universes being born constantly in bubbles, formation of a megaverse
so we now speed along a universal cosmic trail into the ultimate dark
from the Big Bang moment which created a great big cosmic spark.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

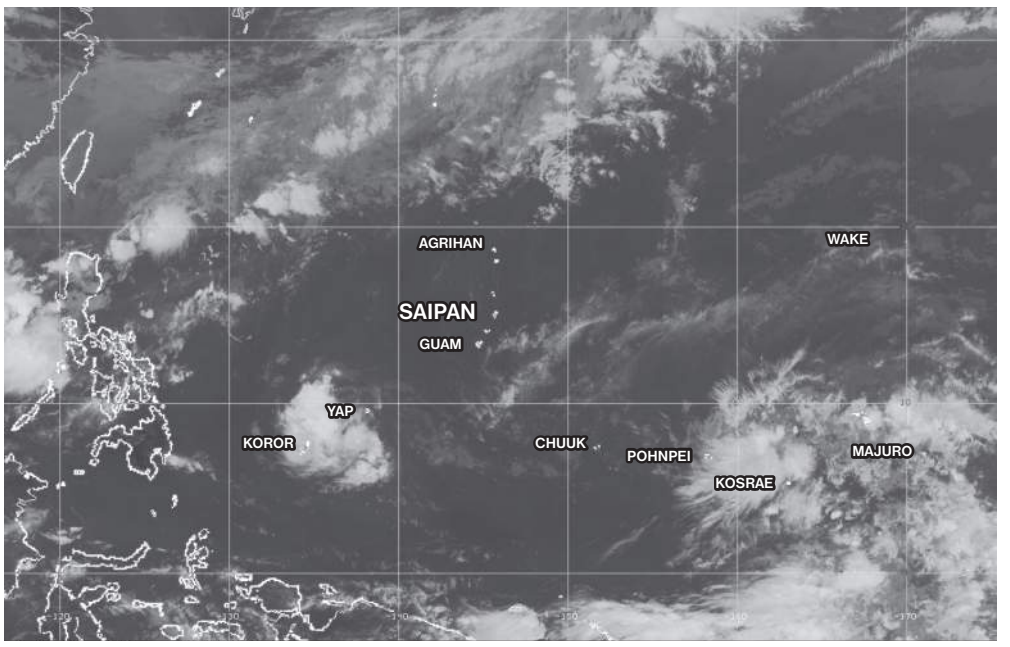
Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89º 78º	89º 78º	89º 78º	89º 78º	89º 78º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:43 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The current forecast maintains a fairly dry pattern over the Marianas for now, though changes are possible in the future. A weak disturbance, currently centered southwest of Kosrae near 2N161E, could affect the Marianas late in the weekend or early next week. This is not currently reflected in the forecast as models differ significantly on intensity, speed and direction of movement.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	86° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	66° / 61°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 57°
Hong Kong	Rain	77° / 73°
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 71°
London	Rain	59° / 46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 57°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 81°
Melbourne	Rain	59° / 45°
Miami	Sunny	82° / 76°
New York	Showers	64° / 52°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	73° / 59°
Paris	Rain	63° / 52°
Busan	Cloudy	70° / 55°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	89° / 63°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 52°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 45°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	68° / 57°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:04 AM	LOW TIDE	1.10
8:56 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
4:15 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.35
11:19 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:25 AM	9:43 PM	-
Thursday	9:21 AM	10:42 PM	-
Friday	10:20 AM	11:38 PM	-
Saturday	11:20 AM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:32 AM	12:20 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 8, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 4, 5
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:10am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 3, 4
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	2:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

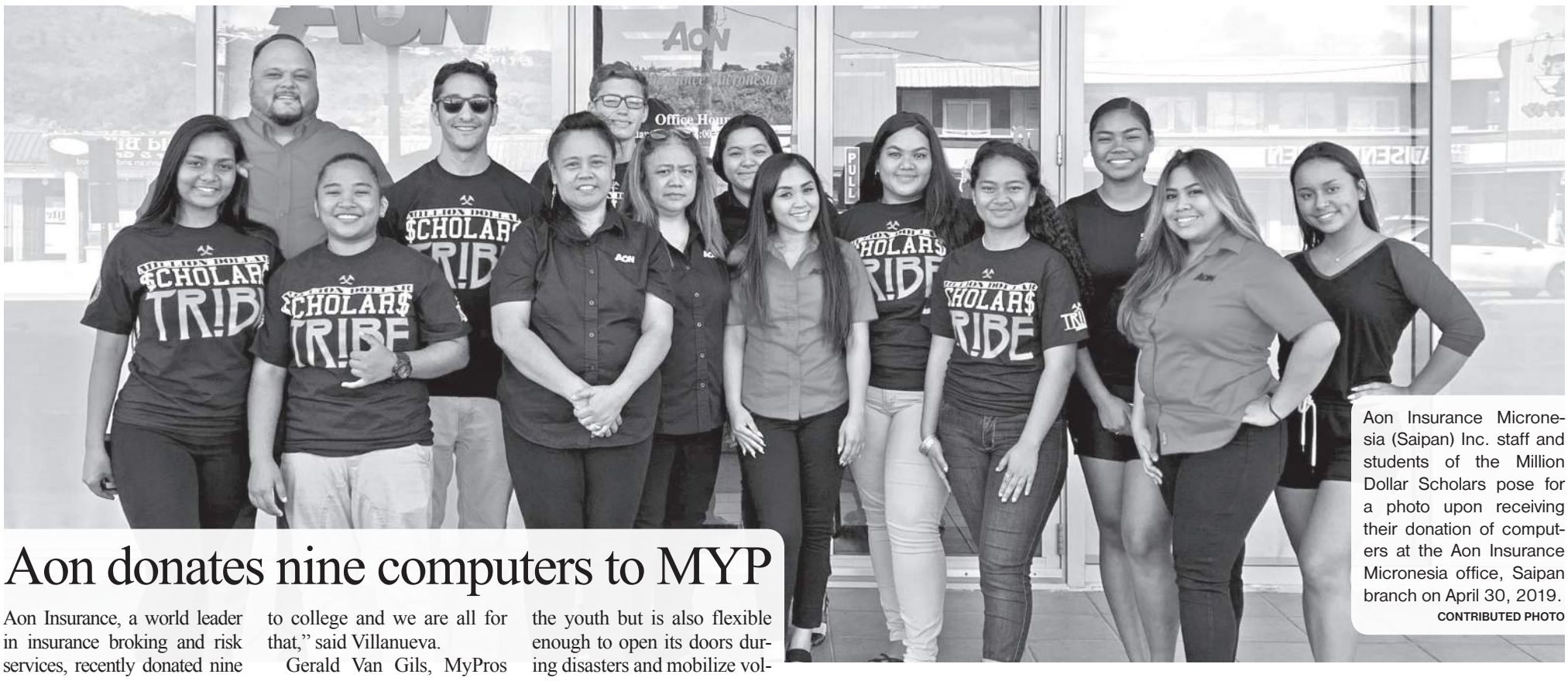
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



Aon Insurance Micronesia (Saipan) Inc. staff and students of the Million Dollar Scholars pose for a photo upon receiving their donation of computers at the Aon Insurance Micronesia office, Saipan branch on April 30, 2019.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aon donates nine computers to MYP

Aon Insurance, a world leader in insurance broking and risk services, recently donated nine computers to the Marianas Young Professionals, a nonprofit organization, to benefit its Million Dollar Scholars program.

Shayne Villanueva, Aon's operations manager, is an avid supporter of education and entrepreneurship within the community. "We are happy to engage in the support of growth through education and mentoring. The Marianas Young Professionals has shown success in developing a system to send our children to college and we are all for that," said Villanueva.

Gerald Van Gils, MyPros executive director and founder of the Million Dollar Scholars program, said, "We are opening an innovation center soon and this is what we will use these computers for. On behalf of MyPros and the Million Dollar Scholars, we thank Aon Insurance for choosing us as a beneficiary. We will put these to good use and will continue to grow our youth."

MyPros is a non-profit organization that focuses on community projects, mentoring the youth but is also flexible enough to open its doors during disasters and mobilize volunteers and staff to assist.

Aon is a leading global professional services firm providing a broad range of risk, retirement, and health solutions. Our 50,000 colleagues in 120 countries empower results for clients by using proprietary data and analytics to deliver insights that reduce volatility and improve performance.

For more information, contact Aon at 234-2811 or visit www.aon.com. ***(PR)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Honolulu District

BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release

Honolulu District Public Affairs: 808-835-4004

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Hosting Public Meeting for Talofofo Former Hospital Dump Site Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study

By Honolulu District Public Affairs

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii (May 3, 2019) – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will convene a public meeting to engage public participation regarding the Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001) located at Talofofo, Saipan.

A presentation will be shown to provide an overview of the investigation process and the development of the study for the project site.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives will be available during the meeting to receive your comments and to answer your questions regarding elements of the project.

Meeting Date: Friday, May 10, 2019
Meeting Time: 5:00 p.m.
American Memorial Park - Visitors Center Theater, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI

You may also submit written comments regarding the project to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Honolulu Engineer District
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-E (Lori Wong)
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440
or
Fax: 808-835-4129.
E-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/DLNR19-RFP-004

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 7, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

AGREEMENT TO FUND, REDESIGN, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE MARINA CONCESSION ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), are soliciting sealed proposals for the Agreement to Fund, Redesign, Maintain and Operate Marina Concession on behalf of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at (670) 234-5897/5898 or fax (670) 234-6040.

The Scope of Work is available on or after **April 17, 2019** at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office No. 214, Saipan.

A Ore-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Lower Base Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Anthony T. Benavente, Secretary of Department of Lands and Natural Resources no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **May 24, 2019**.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 Ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 35%
4. Schedule of Completion – 15%

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (résumés and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, *cannot* submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Sealed proposals must be marked **"DPW/DLNR19-RFP-004"**. For Proposers within the CNMI, one original and nine (9) copies of proposals must be submitted no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **June 7, 2019** to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 9:30 a.m. local time, **June 7, 2019**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For Proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 7, 2019** and may be mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 CK, Saipan MP, 96950 AND must be received no later than the close of business, **June 18, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for the project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
ACTING SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ JACK S. REYES
DIRECTOR,
PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
ACTING SECRETARY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Business

Recent airline crashes run against trend toward safer flying

After a long trend toward greater safety in air travel, there has been an uptick in airline accidents and deaths in 2018 and 2019.

Many aviation experts regard that recent increase as a statistical blip, however. They note that accidents and deaths remain a fraction of the numbers from as recently as the 1990s.

Advances in aircraft and airport design, better air traffic control, and improved pilot training are often cited as factors in reducing accidents.

"I don't think we'll ever get to zero accidents, but aviation is still the safest it's ever been," said Seth Young, director of the aviation program at Ohio State University.

In the U.S., no airline passengers were killed in accidents from 2009 until April 2018, when a woman on a Southwest Airlines jet died after an engine broke apart in flight.

Worldwide, there were more than 50 fatal airline accidents a year through the early and mid-1990s, claiming well over 1,000 lives annually, according to figures compiled by the Flight Safety Foundation.

AP

A worker walks past a Boeing 737 MAX 8 airplane being built for Oman Air at Boeing's assembly facility in Renton, Wash.

Fatalities dropped from 1,844 in 1996 to just 59 in 2017, then rose to 561 last year and 209 already this year.

Nearly half of the airline deaths in 2018 and 2019 occurred during the crashes of two Boeing 737 Max jets in Indonesia and Ethiopia. In each case, investigators are examining the role of flight software that pushed the nose of the plane down based on faulty sensor readings.

That raises concern about safety around automated flight controls, said William Waldock, an expert at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

"Pilots are not being trained as much as pilots as they are system operators and system managers," he said. "So when something happens and the automation fails, they get flummoxed."

Beyond the two Max crashes, safety experts see little immediate connection between other incidents such as the deadly weekend crash of a Russian plane that caught fire after an emergency landing in Moscow and the case of the charter airliner that ran off a Florida runway into a river; no one died in that one.

Investigators probe crashes in search of clues to prevent more accidents from the same cause. In the case of the Aeroflot jet that caught fire, killing more than 40 people on board, attention is likely to turn to Russian media reports that lightning disabled the plane's communications system and whether pilots should have burned off fuel before the emergency landing.

Lightning strikes are not uncommon. In the U.S. alone, there are about 25 million every year, according to the National Weather Service. A Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said airline planes get hit about once a year on average.

Planes are built so that the fuselage acts as an electricity-conducting shield, keeping the voltage away from passengers and critical systems. The jolt is often dissipated off wings or the tail. Critical electronics have surge protection. Nitrogen is used to reduce the risk that electrical arcing could spark a fire in a fuel tank.

Newer planes like the Boeing 787, which uses carbon composite material instead of aluminum, includes fine wiring in the wings to direct current off the plane, said John Hansman, an aeronautics professor at MIT.

"They should be designed to take a lightning strike," Hansman said, "but if you don't have a perfectly grounded airplane, if you don't have the right surge suppressors, it's possible you can take out some of the avionics or electronics."

Sunday's fiery crash in Moscow raised questions about making an emergency landing shortly after takeoff, while the plane is still fully loaded with fuel and likely over the maximum landing weight.

Only very large airliners have the ability to dump fuel. Most jetliners including the popular Boeing 737 and Airbus A320 do not. That leaves only one option for lightening the fuel load on a plane like the Russian-made Sukhoi SSJ100—circling long enough to burn fuel. ***(AP)***

US plans to hike tariffs Friday, says China broke promises

WASHINGTON (AP)—Accusing Beijing of "reneging" on commitments it made in earlier talks, the nation's top trade negotiator said Monday that the Trump administration will increase tariffs on $200 billion in Chinese goods Friday, a sharp escalation in a yearlong trade dispute.

At the same time, a Chinese trade delegation is expected to arrive in Washington to resume negotiations on Thursday, a day later than originally planned.

At a briefing with reporters, neither U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer nor Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin offered details of China's alleged backsliding, and there was no immediate response from Beijing.

Mnuchin said Trump officials learned over the weekend that Chinese officials "were trying to go back on some of the language" that had been negotiated in 10 earlier rounds of talks.

The U.S. officials said that at 12:01 a.m. Eastern time Friday, the administration will raise the tariffs from 10% to 25%. President Donald Trump had announced those plans via Twitter on Sunday, expressing frustration with the pace of negotiations. The hit list includes such varied products as baseball gloves, vacuum cleaners and burglar alarms.

The reiteration Monday of the president's threat from high-level Trump officials reinforced the administration's determination to put Beijing on the defensive.

By threatening to raise taxes on Chinese imports, Trump is throwing down a challenge to Beijing: Agree to sweeping changes in China's government-dominated economic model—or suffer the consequences.

The unexpected ultimatum shook up financial markets, which had expected the world's two biggest economies to resolve a yearlong standoff over trade, perhaps by the end of the week.

"It's a significant change in the president's tone," said Timothy Keeler, a partner at the law firm Mayer Brown and former chief of staff for the U.S. Trade Representative office. "It certainly increases the possibility that you'll have no deal."

For weeks, Trump administration officials had been suggesting that the U.S. and Chinese negotiators were making steady progress.

Suddenly on Sunday, Trump said he had lost patience: "The Trade Deal with China continues, but too slowly, as they attempt to renegotiate. No!" he tweeted.

Trump also said he planned "shortly" to slap 25% tariffs on another $325 billion in Chinese products, covering everything China ships to the United States.

A grim preview of a trade war takes shape

In what could be a grim preview of how investors might react to a full-out trade war between the world's two largest economies, shares in multinational corporations sank Monday after President Donald Trump threatened new tariffs on China.

Any damage from higher import taxes would almost certainly ripple outward and affect anyone who buys a refrigerator, a car, an iPhone, or anything else with a computer chip inside. Companies that import goods or parts from China may or may not pass on costs to consumers, but they usually act to offset rising costs somehow, including potential job cuts.

Goldman Sachs doubled the odds of auto tariffs coming this year (to 20, and lessened the odds it gives to a free trade agreement between the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

"The President's willingness to risk a market disruption by threatening an unexpected tariff hike suggests that he might also be willing to risk the disruption that formally proposing auto tariffs or announcing the intent to withdraw from NAFTA might cause," Goldman Sachs said in research published over the weekend.

The sector hit hardest by escalating trade tensions was technology, particularly companies that make computer chips. Micron Technology Inc., Advance Micro Devices Inc. and Applied Materials Inc. all slid more than 2% by early afternoon, recovering a bit from larger losses. Other chipmakers were not far behind.

According to data provider FactSet, 64.7% of Qualcomm's revenue comes from China. Broadcom's Chinese revenue is 48% of its total.

Heavy hitters in the tech sector like Apple Inc., Amazon.com and Alphabet all lost ground. Apple gets nearly one-fifth of its revenue from world's second largest economy.

But every sector was under pressure Monday, from industrial to retail, and shares that were in retreat Monday tracked closely with its exposure to China.

Wynn Resorts, with a host of casinos and hotels in Macau, gets about 75% of its revenue from China, according to FactSet. Wynn shares tumbled 4.1%.

Chinese companies were not immune to the damage.

Alibaba shares skidded more than 3% and shares in Weibo -- China's version of Twitter -- fell more than 5%.

On Sunday, President Trump tweeted that he would raise import taxes on $200 billion in Chinese products to 25% from 10% as of Friday. That's on top of a 25% duty on another $50 billion of Chinese imports. Beijing has imposed penalties on $110 billion of American goods. ***(AP)***

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
2,932.47	26,438.48	8,123.29
-13.17	-66.47	-40.71
-0.45%	-0.25%	-0.50%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.42	Hong Kong Dollar	7.85	Russian Ruble	65.18
British Pound	0.76	Indian Rupee	68.69	Singapore Dollar	1.36
Canadian Dollar	1.34	Japanese Yen	110.61	South Korean Won	1,148.67
Chinese Yuan	6.66	Malaysian Ringgit	4.10	Swiss Franc	1.02
Euro	0.89	New Zealand Dollar	1.51	Taiwan Dollar	30.39
		Philippine Peso	50.92	Thailand Baht	31.86

Nation

Students protest as high school senior faces deportation

PHOENIX (AP)—A high school football player who has been in the U.S. since he was a toddler was in custody for possible deportation to his native Mexico, prompting a protest Monday by classmates outside an Arizona sheriff's office.

Thomas Torres, who is scheduled to graduate May 22 from Desert View High School, was at a federal holding facility in Casa Grande, Arizona, according to the family he has been living with. Now, he is scheduled to appear in immigration court on that date.

Lorena Rodriguez said Torres had lived for years at her family's home, where he shared a room with her brother, who also is set to graduate. Their caps and gowns are already hanging in the bedroom closet.

Torres' detention, coming shortly before a major rite of passage in the only country he remembers, is a stark example of the Trump administration's crackdown on illegal immigration.

Rodriguez, who launched a GoFundMe page to raise money for Torres' legal costs, said the young man was a toddler when his relatives brought him from Mexico in search of a better future. She said his parents had long since returned to Mexico, leaving him alone in the U.S., and he had lived with her family throughout high school.

"People like Thomas are needed in this country," Rodriguez wrote on the fundraising site. "He's a hardworking young man willing to better his future."

Torres played on the Desert View High School football team and regularly worked several jobs, including busing tables at a restaurant and yardwork, friends said.

Although deportation proceedings involving high school students who have reached adulthood are not uncommon, the outpouring of support from Torres' classmates seemed unusual. A large portion of the population in Tucson's southern district, where the school is located, is Mexican-American.

Torres' classmates marched about 4 miles (6.5 kilometers) from the school to the sheriff's office to demand his release. They also called on all law enforcement agencies to not collaborate with immigration authorities.

"Thomas is the American Dream," said one of the many homemade signs carried by students protesting outside the sheriff's office. Other signs read, "Abolish the Border Patrol" and "Without Justice, There is No Peace."

Torres was taken into custody Thursday after a traffic stop by sheriff's deputies and turned over to Border Patrol, said Victor Mercado, a spokesman for the Sunnyside Unified High School District.

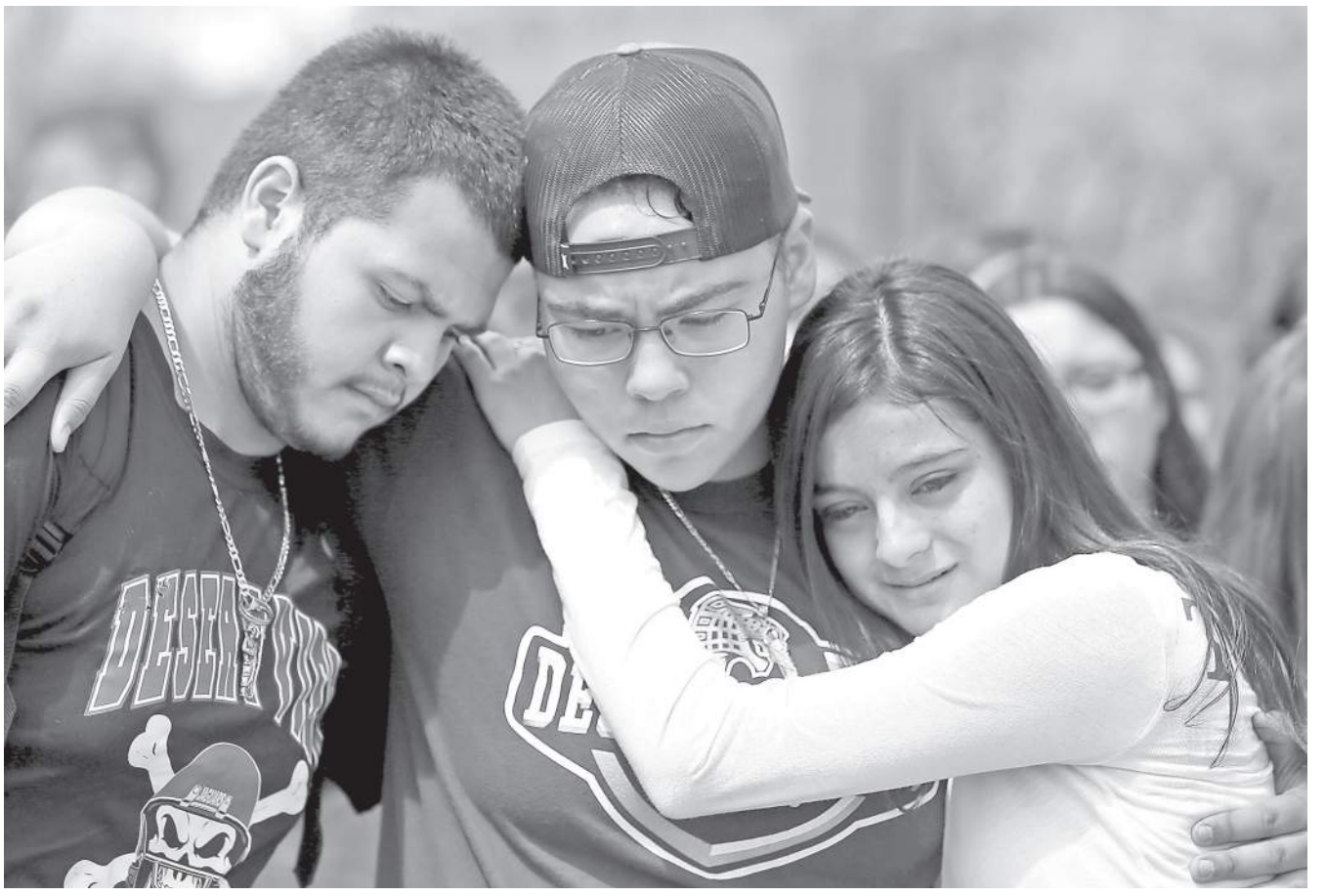
Border Patrol spokeswoman Meredith Mingledorff confirmed Monday that Torres is in federal custody and faces immigration charges after the agency was contacted by the Pima County Sheriff's Office.

Rodriguez said Torres told her family that he was unable to produce a driver's license when he was stopped by sheriff's deputies. Arizona does not issue licenses to people who are in the county without authorization.

The sheriff's office said Monday that a deputy stopped the car Torres was driving to check whether the insurance was up to date. The agency said in a news release that when Torres didn't produce a license he told authorities he was in the country illegally and the deputy contacted the Border Patrol.

There was no information on where Torres was when he was stopped.

A federal judge ruled in the 1990s that the Border Patrol violated the civil rights of Hispanic students and staff at an El Paso, Texas, high school by stopping them at the school without good cause to determine their citizenship. Bowie High School is just a few yards from the U.S.-Mexico border.



AP

From left to right, Marcell Ibarra, 18, Daffne Anselmo, 16, and Jamilet Fragoso, 16, comfort each other after talking about their close friend Thomas Torres, a Desert View High School student who was taken into custody on May 2 by Border Patrol after a traffic stop by a Pima County Sheriff's Department deputy in Tucson, Ariz., Monday, May 6, 2019.

ACROSS THE NATION

Woman agrees to plead guilty in daughter's shooting death

GARY, Ind. (AP)—A northwestern Indiana woman has agreed to plead guilty to a reduced neglect charge stemming from her 2-year-old daughter's shooting death. Twenty-two-year-old Dashana Fowler of Gary agreed Monday to plead guilty to neglect of a dependent resulting in bodily injury in the Sept. 4 death of Jayla Miller. Under the plea agreement, Fowler will be sentenced to three years in prison. She originally was charged with neglect of a dependent resulting in a death, which carries a prison sentence of 20 to 40 years. Court documents say Fowler's son told investigators his sister reached under a pillow, grabbed a handgun and shot herself. Fowler also agreed to testify against her former boyfriend, a convicted felon accused of owning the gun that killed Jayla. Her sentencing is set for June 3.

Police: DNA determines 1972 killer of Indiana student

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP)—Police say a man just identified as the killer of an Indiana State University student in 1972 was killed in a shootout with police six years later. Terre Haute police chief Shawn Keen said Monday that a DNA sample from a son of Jeffrey Lynn Hand was used to connect him to the killing of 19-year-old Pamela Milam. Milam's body was found in the trunk of her car on Sept. 1, 1972. She had been bound and gagged. An autopsy determined she died of strangulation. Keen says Hand, then 23, didn't live in the Terre Haute area but made deliveries for a record company and likely cruised the Indiana State University campus when work brought him to the city. Keen says Hand died in 1978 in a shootout with police during an attempted abduction elsewhere in Indiana.

Jury convicts man in fatal shooting during argument over dog

DENVER (AP)—A Colorado man accused of killing his neighbor during an argument over how the victim disciplined his dog has been convicted of first-degree murder. The Denver Post reports 33-year-old Michael Sadeghi was found guilty Monday in the March 27, 2018, death of 42-year-old Dustin Schmidt. Sadeghi is scheduled to be sentenced June 24. Prosecutors say a German shepherd mix belonging to Schmidt's girlfriend jumped a back fence into Sadeghi's yard. The dog, Bruno, was hanging by his leash when Schmidt pulled the animal back over the fence into his yard. An argument ensued, and Sadeghi shot Schmidt four times.

House committee moving ahead with contempt vote for Barr

WASHINGTON (AP)—A House committee is poised to hold Attorney General William Barr in contempt of Congress — the opening salvo in what could be a lengthy, acrimonious court battle between House Democrats and President Donald Trump's administration over special counsel Robert Mueller's report .

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler scheduled a Wednesday vote to hold Barr in contempt of Congress, citing the Justice Department's failure to provide the full text of Mueller's report by the Monday morning deadline. Nadler, D-N.Y., said Barr's failure to comply with a subpoena left them with "no choice but to initiate contempt proceedings."

The movement to hold Barr in contempt reflects the deepening rift between Democrats and Barr, whom they accuse of spinning the results of Mueller's investigation to Trump's benefit. Barr, in a memo summarizing Mueller's investigation, said there was insufficient evidence that Trump obstructed justice — a conclusion Democrats fiercely dispute.

Nadler said the version of Mueller's report that has already been released to the public offered "disturbing evidence and analysis that President Trump engaged in obstruction of justice at the highest levels." Now, he said, lawmakers need the full version and the underlying evidence "to determine how to best move forward with oversight, legislation and other constitutional responsibilities."

The committee said contempt proceedings could be postponed if the attorney general makes a "good faith" effort to comply with the committee.

In a possible thaw, Nadler said Monday evening that the Justice Department had agreed to meet with his staff Tuesday, adding that he hopes to make "concrete progress" toward resolving the dispute.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec said earlier that the department has "taken extraordinary steps to accommodate the House Judiciary Committee's requests for information" regarding Mueller's report, but that Nadler had not reciprocated. She noted that Democrats have refused to read a version of Mueller's report with fewer redactions that has already been provided to Congress.

Kupec said officials were continuing to engage with the committee, and Nadler's staff had been invited to the department "to discuss a mutually acceptable accommodation."

If the committee approves the contempt resolution against Barr, as expected, it would head to the full House for final approval. But that step is unlikely to lead to criminal charges. A House vote would send a criminal referral to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, a Justice Department official who is likely to defend the attorney general.

Yet by pursuing contempt, Democrats hope to send a message to the Trump administration about their willingness to invoke congressional powers in the majority. Beyond Mueller's report, House Democrats have, so far mostly unsuccessfully, subpoenaed administration witnesses and made efforts to gain access to Trump's personal and business financial records. Trump has said he will block those efforts, declaring he will "fight all the subpoenas."

Asia

Newly crowned Thai king hopes for unity, prosperity

AP
King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida wave to an audience from the balcony of Suddhaisavarya Prasad Hall in the Grand Palace during the coronation ceremony Monday, May 6, 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand.

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's newly crowned King Maha Vajiralongkorn told thousands of cheering people gathered outside Bangkok's Grand Palace on Monday that he was grateful for their good wishes and believed they were a sign everyone would work together for the country's prosperity.

Vajiralongkorn became king after the 2016 death of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who reigned for seven decades, but it wasn't until his formal coronation on Saturday that he became a monarch with full regal powers based on the nation's traditions.

Thailand has had a constitutional monarchy since 1932, when a revolution ended absolute rule by kings. The country's monarchs are still regarded as almost divine and seen as a unifying presence in a country that has suffered regular political instability as it rotates between elected governments and military rule.

The king and other top members of the royal family are protected by one of the world's strictest lese majeste laws, which makes criticism punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

People began lining up early Monday so they could be near the balcony where the king was to appear. Large video screens were placed nearby so those unable to make their way to the front could watch. As the crowd waited in the blazing tropical heat, some broke into cheers whenever a passing cloud blocked the sun.

"I'm glad to be born as a Thai," said Tipparat Aiyawan, who works in Bangkok. "I want every child to know that Thailand has had independence for centuries and has survived because our kings are the soul of our nation."

Vajiralongkorn, arriving late, was greeted inside the royal throne hall by dignitaries from business and religious circles.

When he and his wife, Queen Suthida, a general in the palace guard whom he married just last Wednesday, stepped outside onto the balcony, a mighty cheer erupted from the crowd, most dressed in yellow, the color representing the monarch's birthday. Nearby, artillery was fired in salute.

For about two minutes the king stood with the queen, raising his right hand in greeting before sitting down.

Below the balcony, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha read a short speech pledging loyalty to the monarch.

The king stood up, stepped in front of a microphone and read from some papers. He said he and his queen were delighted with the goodwill extended by the people, and their good wishes left him "moved."

"May your unity in extending good wishes to me on this occasion become a good sign that everyone and every party will work for the prosperity of our nation," he said.

The king's 14-year-old son, Prince Dipangkorn Rasmijoti, and two daughters from previous marriages then stepped forward to join them on the balcony and wave to the crowd. Princess Sirivannavari Nariratana, a fashion designer who is the younger of the king's daughters, took photos with her cellphone and waved enthusiastically.

The king and queen then departed for a quick audience with foreign diplomats.

Vajiralongkorn is also known as King Rama X because he is the tenth king in the Chakri dynasty, which began in 1782. His coronation has involved a series of elaborate, centuries-old rituals rooted in Buddhist and Brahmanic traditions.

A final coronation celebration is planned for October, when there will be a royal barge procession on Bangkok's Chao Phraya River.

North Korea tests new missile—and Trump's resolve

TOKYO (AP)—North Korea appears to have tested a new short-range missile—and President Donald Trump's resolve to keep it from doing more of the same in the future.

The test early Saturday was quickly played down by Trump and his top advisers, who noted it was not the kind of long-range missile leader Kim Jong Un has refrained from launching since 2017.

But the sudden activity on the North's east coast, complete with fiery photos of a purported bull's eye out to sea, alarmed Washington's regional allies and suggests that Kim's missiles are improving even as the Trump administration wrestles with how to get him back to the negotiating table.

Kim personally supervised the test of what experts believe was a short-range ballistic missile first displayed by North Korea at a military parade early last year, along with a drill involving 240 millimeter- and 300 millimeter-caliber multiple rocket launchers.

There remains some uncertainty over what was tested.

South Korea's military reported that various "projectiles" flew from 70 to 240 kilometers (44 to 149 miles) before splashing harmlessly into the Pacific. The activity prompted the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa Air Base in northern Japan to tweet on its official account—in all capital letters—"MISSILE INBOUND."

The tweet was soon followed by an all clear, and an "enjoy your Saturday."

Trump moved quickly to minimize the significance of the test on his efforts to strike a nuclear deal with North Korea, tweeting that Kim "knows that I am with him & does not want to break his promise to me."

Both leaders continue to claim they have a good personal relationship.

But tensions have grown since they failed to make any deals during their most recent summit, in Hanoi in February. Kim and senior North Korean officials have since expressed open frustration with what the North claims is an inflexible and unrealistic posture at talks by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Adviser John Bolton.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres believes North Korea's recent launches only "increase tensions in the region" and calls for continued dialogue to advance peace and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Kim suggested last month that he intends to give Washington until the end of the year to change its negotiating strategy. If it doesn't, he has warned, he will seek a different path.

His position has created a dilemma for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has tried to act as a middleman. Seoul called an emergency meeting Saturday of top officials at its presidential Blue House and urged North Korea to stop committing acts that would raise military tensions.

But such calls ring hollow in North Korea since the South has decided to go ahead with joint military exercises with the U.S. that the North sees as provocative. North Korea strongly condemned a drill of a South Korea-based THAAD air-defense system by U.S. troops just two weeks ago.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani police holding doctor for allegedly spreading HIV

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani police say a court will allow a doctor with HIV and AIDS to remain in police custody for two more days to determine whether he knowingly spread HIV to over 150 people, mostly children, by using contaminated syringes. Local police chief Wasim Raja Soomro said Monday that Dr. Muzaffar Ghangharo was detained last week, and has denied the charges. Soomro said the initial investigation indicates the doctor had intentionally spread HIV since early April while treating patients for the common cold, diarrhea and other diseases. He said the outbreak was detected when patients with HIV symptoms began coming to a state-run hospital in the southern town of Larkana. Pakistan's Health Ministry has registered over 23,000 HIV cases.

2 arrested after clash in Sri Lanka town hit by Easter blast

NEGOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Two people were arrested after mobs attacked Muslim-owned shops and vehicles in a Sri Lankan town where a suicide bombing targeted a Catholic church on Easter, police said Monday. Residents of the seaside town of Negombo said the mostly Catholic attackers stoned and vandalized shops on Sunday night. It was unclear how the dispute began, but some residents said a private dispute took a religious turn. Police imposed a curfew. The clash was the first reported since the Easter bombings of churches and hotels by attackers who had pledged support for the Islamic State group. More than 250 people were killed. Military spokesman Sumith Atapattu said several people were injured in the clashes in Negombo, where St. Sebastian's Church was targeted on Easter. Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said on Monday that the curfew was lifted after the violence was brought under control and two people were arrested.

Afghan official: Taliban storm checkpoint, killing 20 troops

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Taliban stormed an army checkpoint in Afghanistan's western Farah province, killing 20 soldiers and abducting two, the latest in relentless attacks that the insurgents carry out even as they negotiate with the U.S. about ending the war, Afghan officials said Monday. The attack also dashed hopes of some sort of truce during the holy month of Ramadan, which started Monday and when observant Muslims fast from dawn to dusk. The overnight attack on the checkpoint in the Farah province's Gulistan district triggered an hour-long gunbattle as Afghan troops tried to repel the attackers. The fate of the abducted soldiers was not immediately known, said provincial councilman Dadullah Qaneh. Col. Qais Mangal, spokesman for the Afghan Ministry of Defense, later confirmed the attack but could not give precise casualties figures. "I can confirm that an army checkpoint has been attacked and there are casualties among soldiers," he said, adding that reinforcements have been dispatched to the area.

World

Gaza quiet after Israel, Hamas agree to cease-fire

JERUSALEM (AP)—The Israeli military lifted protective restrictions on residents in the south on Monday, while Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group reported a cease-fire deal had been reached to end the deadliest fighting between the two sides since a 2014 war.

The escalation had killed 25 on the Gaza side, both militants and civilians, while on the Israeli side four civilians were killed by incoming fire.

The Islamic Jihad militant group, which Israel accused of instigating the latest violence, confirmed that a "mutual and concurrent" truce had been brokered by Egypt. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said Egyptian mediators, along with officials from Qatar and the U.N., helped reach the deal. He said Hamas could still use "different pressuring tools" to get Israel to ease a crippling blockade of Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pointedly noted that "the campaign is not over, and it requires patience and judgment."

The intense fighting over the past two days came to a halt early Monday and residents on both sides went back to their daily routines. Schools and roads had been closed, and Israelis had been urged to remain indoors and near bomb shelters as intense rocket fire pounded the area.

An Israeli soldier stands at a gathering point in Israel Gaza Border, Monday, May 6, 2019. AP

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and have fought three wars and numerous smaller battles since the Islamic militant group seized Gaza from Western-backed Palestinian forces in 2007.

In the latest fighting, which erupted over the weekend, Palestinian militants fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, while the Israeli military responded with airstrikes on some 350 militant targets inside Gaza, including weapons storage, attack tunnels and rocket launching and production facilities.

It also deployed tanks and infantry forces to the Gaza frontier, and put another brigade on standby. A Hamas commander allegedly involved in transferring Iranian funds to the group was killed in an airstrike, in an apparent return to Israel's policy of targeting militant leaders.

Palestinian medical officials reported 25 deaths, including at least 10 militants as well as three women, two of them pregnant, and two babies. The four Israeli civilians killed were the first Israeli fatalities from rocket attacks since the 50-day war in 2014. One was killed when his vehicle was hit by a Kornet anti-tank missile near the Gaza border.

The Israeli military had no immediate comment on an airstrike that killed six civilians, including a 12-year-old boy and an infant, when it destroyed a five-story apartment block in the northern Gaza Strip town of Beit Lahiya. The Gaza public works ministry said 130 housing units were destroyed by Israeli airstrikes.

Egyptian mediators had been working with the U.N. to broker a cease-fire. Under past Egyptian-brokered deals, Israel has agreed to ease its joint blockade of Gaza with Egypt in exchange for a halt to rocket fire.

The latest fighting broke out after Palestinian militants accused Israel of not honoring an earlier cease-fire deal from March and opened fire on soldiers on the Israeli side of the Gaza frontier.

The terms of the latest deal were not known, but recent cease-fires have been short-lived.

In weary communities in southern Israel, there was criticism that the latest round of fighting had ended without tangible results—and no hope that it would not recur soon.

US warns China, Russia against aggression in Arctic region

ROVANIEMI, Finland (AP)—The Trump administration warned China and Russia on Monday that the U.S. won't stand for aggressive moves in the Arctic region, which is rapidly opening up to development and commerce as temperatures warm and sea ice melts.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a speech in Finland that the U.S. will compete for influence in the Arctic and counter attempts to make it the strategic preserve of any one or two nations. He said the rule of law must prevail for the Arctic to remain peaceful, and he criticized China and Russia for what he said were coercive practices that would destabilize the "high North" if allowed.

Critics were likely to seize on the speech for being short on scientific specifics, not using the phrase "climate change," offering no ideas on mitigating its effects and focusing almost entirely on how to responsibly tap the Arctic in an era of fierce global rivalries.

"The region has become an arena of global power and competition and the eight Arctic states must adapt to this new future," Pompeo said, one day before he participates in a meeting of foreign ministers from the Arctic Council .

He said that group had once been able to focus solely on scientific, environmental and cultural issues, but profound changes in the Arctic's environment and strategic rivalries made that extremely difficult now.

"We're entering a new age of strategic engagement in the Arctic, complete with new threats to Arctic interests and its real estate," Pompeo said.

For the U.S., he said that means boosting America's security and diplomatic presence with new military exercises, icebreakers and expanded Coast Guard operations.

Pompeo took particular aim at China, which, unlike Russia, does not have any territory or claim in the Arctic but holds observer status in the council.

He said China's attempts to inject itself into the region's affairs by pushing infrastructure projects and commercial investments must be checked. He rejected China's assertion that it is a "near-Arctic nation."

"There are only Arctic states and non-Arctic states," he said. "No third category exists—and claiming otherwise entitles China to exactly nothing."

Pompeo said responsible Chinese investment is welcome in the Arctic but that China's history of what he called predatory activities elsewhere are cause for concern.

"China's pattern of aggressive behavior elsewhere will inform how it treats the Arctic," he said. Pompeo noted China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea, which has alarmed many of its smaller neighbors. "Do we want the Arctic Ocean to transform into a new South China Sea, fraught with militarization and competing territorial claims?" he asked.

China's special representative for Arctic affairs, Gao Feng, who is at the council meeting, dismissed Pompeo's warnings and said countries should be free do deal with China as they wish.

"He says it's a new era. OK, competition. Let's see who can get more friends," Gao told reporters after Pompeo's speech. "On the one hand, he can warn. How people react to that is another matter."

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope in Bulgaria says refugees need love; Orthodox stay away

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP)—Pope Francis told refugees Monday in Bulgaria's showcase refugee center that they are bearing the "cross of humanity," as he pressed his call for the migrant-skeptic Balkan country to welcome poor and desperate foreigners with love. On his second and final day in Bulgaria, Francis sought to encourage both refugees and the tiny Catholic community here, celebrating the sacrament of First Communion for nearly 250 children. But his efforts to warm relations with the Bulgarian Orthodox Church appeared to stall, as religious leaders stayed away from a peace meeting he convened and one powerful metropolitan called his visit "an attack on Orthodoxy." Francis has sought to build bridges with the conservative Orthodox Church and its leader, Patriarch Neofit, welcomed him upon his arrival Sunday. But the church's governing Holy Synod had made clear from the start that its representatives wouldn't participate in his events. Francis opened his day visiting the Vrazhdebna refugee center, in a refurbished school on the outskirts of the capital, Sofia. Children from Iraq, Syria and elsewhere sang for him and gave him drawings.

6 firefighters investigated over alleged gang rape in Paris

PARIS (AP)—Six Paris firefighters are under investigation based on allegations of gang rape in a city firehouse. The Paris prosecutor's office said the suspects were taken into custody as part of a judicial inquiry into gang rape or failure to prevent a crime. The six were presented to a judge Monday who named them all as "assisted witnesses" in the case, according to the prosecutor's office. Under French law, the special status means magistrates have reason to suspect the men were more than simple witnesses and were involved in wrongdoing but don't have enough evidence to file preliminary charges. The six were then released pending further investigation. The Paris fire service wouldn't immediately comment. A police official said a Norwegian student filed a complaint Saturday for alleged rape at a fire station in the Plaisance district of southern Paris. French newspaper Le Parisien reported that the woman told police she had consensual sex with one firefighter but then was raped by several others.

Lawyer: Kurdish rebel chief wants hunger strikes to end

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A lawyer says imprisoned Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan has called on hundreds of hunger-striking prisoners "not to endanger their lives." Lawyer Newroz Uysal said Monday that her colleagues visited Ocalan on a prison island off Istanbul on May 2. It was the first time lawyers were able to see him since 2011. Close to 3,000 people have joined a hunger strike in around 90 prisons demanding improved jail conditions for Ocalan, including permission for family members and lawyers to visit. Uysal quoted Ocalan as saying that while he respected those taking part in the strike, they should "not take it to the point that will result in death." It wasn't clear if lawyers would be allowed regular visits to the island where Ocalan is serving a life term.

Focus

Families defrauded by unregulated service dog trainers

By ALLEN G. BREED
AP NATIONAL WRITER

APEX, N.C. (AP)—All the counseling, therapy and medication did little to ease 9-year-old Sobie Cummings' crippling anxiety and feelings of isolation. And so a psychiatrist suggested that a service dog might help the autistic child connect with other kids.

To Glenn and Rachel Cummings, Mark Mathis seemed like a dream come true. His kennel, Ry-Con Service Dogs, was just a couple of hours away, and he, too, had a child with autism. But what clinched the decision were Mathis' credentials.

"Is Ry-Con a certified program? Yes," stated an online brochure. "In 2013, Mark was certified as a NC state approved service dog trainer with a specialty in autism service dogs for children."

Ten months and $14,500 later, the family brought home a shaggy mop of a dog that Sobie had come to view as her "savior." But when they opened the front door, Okami broke from Glenn Cummings' grasp and began mauling one of the family's elderly dogs—all as Sobie watched from the stairs in mute horror.

It was only after they had returned Okami and asked for a refund that the family learned the truth: Mathis was not a state-certified dog trainer. In fact, North Carolina has no such certification program—and neither does any other state.

The service dog industry—particularly in the field of "psychiatric" service dogs for people with autism and post-traumatic stress disorder—has exploded in recent years. But a near complete absence of regulation and oversight has left needy, desperate families vulnerable to incompetence and fraud.

"It is a lawless area. The Wild West," says David Favre, a law professor at Michigan State University and editor of its Animal Legal and Historical Center website.

Properly training a service dog can take up to 1 ½ years and cost upward of $50,000, depending on the tasks it is taught to perform. But the Americans with Disabilities Act does not require that a service dog be professionally trained or certified. And, according to the U.S. Department of Justice , local and state agencies are prohibited from requiring that the dogs be registered.

"It needs to be specially trained to do tasks that relate to the person's disability, but it doesn't say anything about who does the training or the quality of training or the efficacy of it," says Lynette Hart, a professor of veterinary medicine at the University of California, Davis. "So it's a very broad, wide-open barn door."

The ADA allows people to train their own service dogs. But Hart, who has co-authored studies of the industry, says most don't have the time, wherewithal or confidence to do so, and that puts needy families "in a calamitous situation." "They're easy prey," says Hart, whose late brother had autism.

In 2012, the state of Illinois sued Lea Kaydus and Animals for Autism over a "heartless scam" in which she took several thousand dollars from families but never matched them with dogs. Kaydus was ordered to pay restitution.

Two years ago, Noelle's Dogs Four Hope of Colorado Springs agreed to surrender its license after state inspectors confirmed the placement of dogs with "incontinence, lack of basic house training, separation anxiety and aggression."

And last year, Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring filed suit against Service Dogs by Warren Retrievers Inc., which advertises dogs trained to help people suffering from diabetes, PTSD, seizure disorders and autism. The lawsuit alleges that the diabetes-alert dogs, for which Warren charged up to $27,000, "were often poorly trained, ill-behaved, and unequipped to help manage a life-threatening situation, rendering them little more than incredibly expensive pets."

Attorneys for owner Charles D. Warren Jr. say the state's case is based on the complaints of "a few disgruntled and fanatical consumers" who "cannot be satisfied and refuse all attempts at accommodation and reason." A trial date has not been scheduled.

Authorities in North Carolina are now investigating Ry-Con.

Mathis, a biotech engineer, founded Ry-Con after his older son, who is autistic, was successfully paired with a service dog. "It was remarkable," Mathis told a local magazine several years ago. "We had a new child."

Incorporated in 2014, Ry-Con worked exclusively with Briards—a long-haired French herding breed that can weigh anywhere from 55 to 100 pounds. The American Kennel Club site says the Briard "packs so much loyalty, love, and spirit into its ample frame that it's often described as a 'heart wrapped in fur.'"

AP

Sobie Cummings, 11, plays with her dog, Dallas, at the family's home in Waxhaw, N.C., Friday, March 29, 2019. A psychiatrist suggested that a service dog might help to ease Sobie's crippling anxiety and feelings of isolation. But when they brought home a $14,500 Briard from Mark Mathis' Ry-Con Service Dogs, Okami broke from Glenn Cummings' grasp and began mauling Dallas.

In a May 2017 news release, Mathis claimed that Ry-Con—based in Apex, just southwest of Raleigh—was the largest provider of autism service dogs on the East Coast and boasted a "100% success rate."

There aren't a lot of programs that specialize in training dogs for children with autism, so the Cummings family felt lucky to find one so close to home.

The Charlotte couple searched online and found positive local news articles, as well as a profile of Ry-Con by CNNMoney. Mathis' website was loaded with glowing testimonials.

And then there was the state certification.

"For us to see that he had the backing of the state ... was huge," Rachel Cummings says.

The couple contacted Ry-Con in July 2017. Within days, Mathis called to say he had the perfect dog for Sobie, even though he'd not met her and his contracts promised Ry-Con would "hand select a puppy for the (consumer)." Rachel Cummings says she found that odd but: "I was blinded by hope."

Mathis sent them a photo. Sobie decided to name her new friend after the Japanese word for her favorite animal—the wolf.

Several months later, the family traveled to Apex to meet the dog. She was still a puppy and had not yet undergone training, but Sobie got to spend time with her. Her mother tears up picturing her daughter beaming as she and Okami played at a park.

"Her life has been not the easiest ... being bullied and wanting friends desperately," she says. "And so it was just a beautiful thing to see."

Sobie plastered her walls and school folders with photos of Okami. She kept a framed picture of the dog beside her bed, hugging and kissing and talking to it before going to sleep.

But on subsequent visits, Cummings says, Okami did not seem to be progressing.

The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners says a service animal should have a minimum of 120 hours of schooling over six months or more. The dog must respond to basic commands—"Sit, Stay, Come, Down, Heel"—and be able to work without exhibiting "aggressive behavior toward people or other animals."

Studies have shown that up to half wash out of training.

During training trips to local stores, Okami pulled at her leash and refused to lie down. At a mall, she growled and lunged at people, and defecated in a hallway.

Still, Sobie and the dog had bonded, and the family hoped more training would smooth out the rough edges. Okami "graduated" last May; the family brought her home Mother's Day weekend.

Cummings says her two dogs were lying in the front hall when Okami attacked, unprovoked. She says it took both her and her husband to pry the Briard's jaws from the other dog's throat.

When Mathis refused to refund their money, they sued. They were unaware that they weren't the first to have issues with Ry-Con.

In November 2017, Christian and Shannon Poirier say the dog Mathis sold them bit their 11-year-old son Daniel, who has autism. After repeated requests for a refund, they sued him in small claims court and won.

The Cummings case never got that far.

Last Nov. 13, Mathis sent an email to clients announcing he was closing down. At the time, he had about 40 dogs in training. He said the operation was no longer sustainable, blaming "issues with accounts receivables, and a select number of recently returned dogs and the unfortunate response that followed."

The following day, he filed for bankruptcy protection.

Clients were told to come collect their dogs. Not long after, complaints began pouring into state Attorney General Josh Stein's office.

Some customers claimed they arrived at Ry-Con to find dogs emaciated, skittish and matted with urine and feces. Many said their pups lunged and nipped at children and other animals, weren't housetrained and could not respond to basic commands.

Nancy Evans says her 19-year-old daughter, Katie, had waited over a year for her dog, Bailey. Katie suffered from PTSD and anxiety so severe that she could not even take the bus by herself. Once home with them in Toronto, the dog showed extreme aggression toward Katie's older brother. An expert who examined Bailey declared her unfit for service, and a Briard rescue group took her away.

About a month after losing Bailey, Katie committed suicide. Her mother is convinced things would have been different had Bailey worked out. "My Katie would still be alive today if we had been given a trained service dog," Evans says.

Stein's office has received more than four dozen complaints against Ry-Con. In a response to one, Mathis accused clients of breaking their contracts, falling behind on payments or misrepresenting conditions in their homes, and suggested that some were attempting to blackmail him.

In an email to The Associated Press, he insisted that his troubles all stemmed from recent financial issues.

"Some of (the dogs) had to go home earlier than their original planned graduation," Mathis wrote. "Some of them went home on time but aftercare support was not immediately available. ... This is not the same as selling untrained dogs, and certainly not a willful act or scam."

However, the state attorney general alleges that Mathis not only misrepresented his credentials but also falsified breeder information, providing some families animals that were trained primarily as police or security dogs, not service dogs. Stein's office also contends that Mathis may have siphoned as much as $240,000 of the nonprofit's money for personal expenses, including groceries, haircuts and video games.

Meanwhile, Stein said the families are out more than $950,000—money he will try to recover. "Most if not all of the consumers had no prior experience with service dogs or the training of service animals. They therefore had no expectations as to how the industry operated," the complaint states.

Mathis declined to respond to allegations of inflated credentials and success rates, instead referring the AP to several satisfied clients.

Scott Gordon of Rolesville, North Carolina, turned to Mathis for help with his 6-year-old son, Beckett, who has autism. He says Zuzu was a perfect fit.

"I used to have to lay down with him for at least 45 minutes to get him to fall asleep," he says. "Now, I kiss them both good night, and off he goes to sleep."

Whitney Reynolds says a touch or a lick from their Briard, Cosette, can stop one of her 7-year-old son's meltdowns cold. "She's a blessing," the Cary, North Carolina, woman says.

But to the Cummings family and others, Ry-Con has been a curse.

Rachel Cummings says Sobie didn't leave her room or eat for several days after the attack; a doctor has diagnosed the little girl with PTSD.

One day, Cummings found an empty picture frame under her daughter's bed. Sobie had torn the photo of Okami into tiny pieces, locked them in a keepsake box and thrown away the key.

Now 11, Sobie sleeps with a stuffed owl—her new favorite animal.

"Her life is not what it was," her mother says. "The light's not back in her eyes yet."

And what became of Okami? Rachel and Glenn Cummings learned that Mathis had sold her to another family, with similar results.

That family has also filed a complaint.

Good Housekeeping

What your millennial kids don't want: Heavy antiques, brown wood, your old Steinway. TNS

PHILADELPHIA— Grand pianos. Your grandparents' floral china. Heavy, dark dressers. Crystal and collectible figurines, such as Lladro and Hummels. And fur coats.

Mischa Greenberg has seen them all bursting out of closets and attics at her baby boomer client homes around Philadelphia.

And, she says, all that stuff isn't worth much.

"People can't even give their things away, because young people don't collect," said the founder of Moves-Made-EZ.com, who specializes in downsizing and moves for Boomers.

The market for antiques, older furniture, and collectibles — once a popular alternative asset — today has become a mediocre financial investment.

That's in part due to the ocean of "brown furniture" and antiques flooding the marketplace from downsizing boomers, a flood that experts estimate began about 10 years ago.

Only the very highest-end jewelry will fetch a good price for resale, she said.

"Most of it isn't popular. The millennials and Gen Xers don't dangle emeralds. And the fur coats I put on eBay? Most of them sell for between $50 and $500 to buyers in China," said Greenberg.

Even military collectibles on the lower end of the price scale aren't maintaining value. Civil War-era swords, for example, sold for $2,000 a decade ago, said art appraiser and former FBI investigator Robert Wittman.

"Today, they go for $800 to $850 for a standard-issue sword," Wittman said.

There are exceptions: Generals' swords with their names inscribed "stay high in price. But overall, this trend isn't good for the industry because new, young collectors aren't joining the market. Young people would rather have a top-of-the-line iPhone than a grand piano," he added.

The desire for hand-me-down furniture evaporated due to taste and economics. Millennials may enjoy antiques but can't afford them, or don't have space, as rents rise and living spaces shrink.

"Young people have built-in dressers, drawers, and closets — not furniture that's big and heavy. Millennials don't make enough to be able to buy the big homes and apartments. They rent, and studio or townhouse rentals in Philly are small. Even the free furniture from mom and dad isn't finding a home," Wittman said.

As boomers age, "all their stuff's glutting the market. They're the biggest population, and as they age, there's so much out there that the bottom has fallen out," said Wittman.

High-end colonial furniture from the 1700s, collected by the Winterthur Museum and other institutions, still fetches exceptionally high prices. But those pieces are not what drives the antiques secondhand buyer — who instead wants everyday usable furniture.

Philadelphia's premier auctions show large amounts of once-pricey furniture selling for discounts. At an auction this year, a six-piece mahogany Chippendale-style bedroom set with ball-and-claw feet sold for just $750.

Wittman himself just bought six high-end chairs made in North Carolina, which retail new for $2,500. "I got them for $200" at Briggs Auction, headquartered in Garnet Valley, Pa., he said.

However, an Arne Jacobsen red chair and ottoman, with straight midcentury modern design, fetched more than $3,500 at a recent Briggs auction. It's a trend that Philadelphia auctioneers, such as Freeman's, have tried to capitalize on by featuring affordable, midcentury modern pieces that appeal to millennials.

A member of the National Association of Senior Move Managers (NASMM), Greenberg says she has worked with at least 400 families, and the conversation is often awkward when getting rid of their one-time status symbols.

"I have a dozen grand pianos come through my business per year. One or two are resold, the rest are donated. Cunningham Piano just bought back a piano from a client," she said. In another case, she tried to resell a $60,000 grand — but got no response.

"There was a time everyone had a piano in their house, it was like a coffee table. You had to have one. Now, in some cases, I'm forced to take them to the dump," she said.

Photograph your stuff

If you can't bear to part with something, take a photograph of it for sentimental value, said Clemence Scouten, founder of Attics Anonymous. She helps families create personal histories of their relatives and heirlooms.

"When your parents are gone, you're attached to furniture or china or stemware. But you can take a picture and make a book out of it," Scouten said.

"My mom was French. My grandmother had an enormous hutch for china and flatware. It followed her throughout her life. But my mom couldn't sell it, and it didn't fit in an apartment," she said. "When my mom died, we sold everything, and I went out to my car and wept. It's complicated."

She advises families to sell expensive pieces of art and divide proceeds among heirs.

"You sell it and share the cash. There are ways to preserve what was meaningful about the object without the object itself. That's where there is opportunity. Don't put it in storage. Take pictures of it and make a book, explaining where and from whom it came," said Scouten.

She charges clients a $75 hourly rate to organize, and a flat rate to write books about their families and possessions.

"One client wanted a book about her mom's hats," she said. "That kind of emotional association you can pass on."

TNS

What your millennial kids do want: Your Arne Jacobsen chair, other mid-mod treasures.

Millennials don't want heavy antiques, brown furniture; they crave 'Mad Men'-era stuff

By ERIN ARVEDLUND
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Life & Style

Harry and Meghan love story takes new turn: a baby boy

WINDSOR, England (AP)—The improbable love story between an American actress and a British royal took the best of all possible turns Monday with the arrival of a healthy baby boy.

The as-yet-unnamed baby arrived less than a year after Prince Harry wed Meghan Markle in a spectacular televised event on the grounds of Windsor Castle that was watched the world over.

Meghan is now the Duchess of Sussex, but she still does things her own way: The couple bucked royal tradition by declining to say where the baby was born and opting not to come out to pose with the newborn just hours after the birth.

Instead, an obviously overjoyed Harry emerged to tell the world—via its waiting TV cameras—that a baby had been born. It marked a moment the nation is likely to remember as a once-troubled boy undone by the death of his mother Princess Diana in 1997 car crash seemed giddy in his embrace of fatherhood.

"This little thing is absolutely to die for," the ginger-haired, bearded prince said.

Footmen Stephen Kelly and Sarah Thompson bring out the easel in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace to formally announce the birth of a baby boy to Britain's Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, in London, Monday, May 6, 2019. AP

"I'm just over the moon."

The baby weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces (3.26 kilograms) at birth and was born at 5:26 a.m. (0426 GMT; 12:26 a.m. EDT). Harry said their son was a little bit overdue and that had given the royal couple more time to contemplate names.

Harry promised that more details—such as the baby's name—will be shared in the coming days.

Harry and the palace didn't immediately provide details on whether the baby was born at a hospital or if it was a home birth. The royal couple had earlier said they wanted to keep details private.

The infant is seventh in line to the British throne and is the eighth great-grandchild of 93-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest reigning monarch.

It is a satisfying moment for the queen as the monarchy grows in popularity in part because of public affection for Harry, his older brother Prince William, and their two wives, Meghan and Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge.

Harry, the 34-year-old son of Prince Charles, said he was present at the birth.

"It's been the most amazing experience I could ever have possibly imagined," he said. "How any woman does what they do is beyond comprehension.

"We're both absolutely thrilled and so grateful for all the love and support from everybody out there. It's been amazing, so we just wanted to share this with everybody," he said.

Word that the baby had been born was withheld while senior members of the royal family, including the queen, were told. Princess Diana's family was also informed.

Buckingham Palace said minutes before 2 p.m. that Meghan had gone into labor (in fact the baby had already been born) and Harry emerged less than an hour later to announce the birth in person.

Harry's dramatic announcement, and his obvious pleasure, sparked cheers among royal fans and well-wishers who had gathered outside the imposing grounds of Windsor Castle hoping to hear the news.

"Cheers to the newborn baby boy! Hip hip hooray!" said 64-year-old John Loughrey, popping open a bottle of sparkling wine. He was clad in head-to-toe Union flags and royal family memorabilia to mark the occasion.

A look at latest royal birth, what it means for UK monarchy

LONDON (AP)—Britain's royal family has its newest member, a baby boy born to Prince Harry and his American wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, nearly one year after their wedding in a chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle.

Here are some key points about the new arrival.

WILL THE BABY GROW UP TO BE A KING?

The baby boy will be seventh in line to the throne, making it very unlikely that he will grow up to be the British monarch.

The current heir is Prince Charles, Queen Elizabeth II's 70-year-old son. He is followed by his son William and William's three young children: Prince George, Princess Charlotte, and Prince Louis. Next comes the new baby's father, Prince Harry, and then the newborn boy.

WILL THE BABY AT LEAST BE A PRINCE?

This won't happen automatically. It's really up to the queen to decide, although Harry and Meghan may also have a say.

A decree issued by King George V in 1917 limits the number of grand royal titles in a way that would make Harry and Meghan's son known as a "Lord" rather than as a prince. He wouldn't become "his royal highness" under the current rules.

The queen has the authority, however, to intervene as she did when William and his wife Kate started having children. The queen decreed that all of their children would be princes and princesses.

She could do the same for Harry and Meghan's offspring, but the queen's feelings on that subject haven't been made public. She did not make any immediate announcement after the baby's birth.

It is also possible that Harry and Meghan could decide they don't want the special designation for the baby, in order to give their child a more normal upbringing.

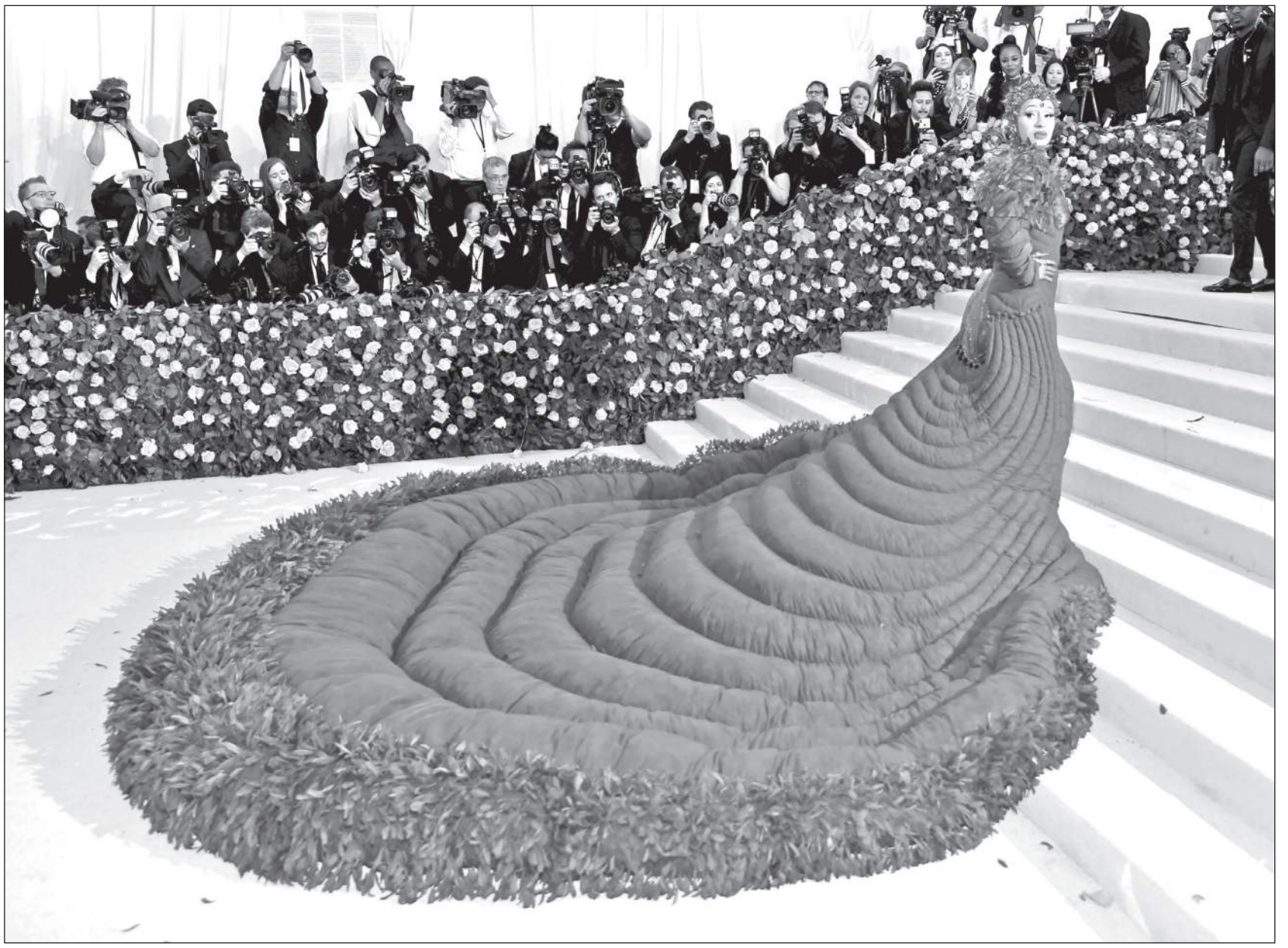
WHAT WILL THEY NAME THE BABY?

Royals tend to take their time about naming a baby.

Prince Harry, in making the announcement, said the couple hasn't decided on a name yet.

But there has been speculation that the newborn would be named Albert, Arthur or James.

It is also possible Harry and Meghan will break tradition and give the baby a name without a long connection to the royal family.



MET GALA AP

Cardi B attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the "Camp: Notes on Fashion" exhibition on Monday, May 6, 2019, in New York. Cardi B swept by in a stunning red quilted dress accentuated with a matching sequin headpiece, feathers and a train that took up much of the pink carpet.

Coffee cup in 'Game of Thrones' scene perks up viewers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Game of Thrones" fans got a taste of the modern world when eagle-eyed viewers spotted a takeout coffee cup on the table during a celebration in which the actors drank from goblets and horns.

The characters Daenerys and Jon did not react to the out of place cup in Sunday's episode.

Many viewers complained the show should have caught the gaffe, which turned into an enduring meme on Monday.

HBO poked fun at the oversight: "The latte that appeared in the episode was a mistake. Daenerys had ordered an herbal tea."

Amateur sleuths tried to determine where the coffee cup came from, with But some viewers who took to Twitter concluding it was from Starbucks. HBO only said it was from its craft services crew.

Even the show's executive producer, Bernie Caulfield, expressed disbelief that the cup made it on screen.

"Our onset prop people and decorators are so on it,

AP
This image released by HBO shows Kristofer Hivju, from left, Kit Harington and Emilia Clarke in a scene from "Game of Thrones."

1,000%," she said in an interview with Alison Stewart on WNYC's "All of it."

"Nowadays you can't believe what you see because people can put things into a photo that really doesn't exist, but I guess maybe it was there, I'm not sure," she said. "We're sorry!"

She also joked that Westeros was the first place to actually have a Starbucks: "It's a little known fact."

The last "Game of Thrones" episode airs May 19.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

R. Kelly due back in court for hearing on sex-abuse case

CHICAGO (AP)—R. Kelly is due back in court for a hearing on his sex-abuse case. The R&B singer is required to attend Tuesday morning's status hearing. It is unclear what issues will be discussed, but one matter before the judge involves attorney Michael Avenatti. Avenatti, who represented porn actress Stormy Daniels in her legal battles against President Donald Trump, represents two Kelly accusers. But after he was indicted on embezzlement and extortion charges in California, Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, filed a motion asking the judge to order that all messages between Avenatti and the prosecutors handling the Kelly case be preserved as possible evidence of inappropriate coordination and communication leading up to the charges. Cook County Judge Lawrence Flood has not ruled on the motion. Kelly was charged in February with 10 counts of aggravated sexual abuse.

Award is offered—and rescinded—for 'American Pie' singer

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—A lifetime achievement award has been offered—and rescinded—for "American Pie" singer Don McLean. The 73-year-old announced Monday that he's receiving the George and Ira Gershwin Award for Lifetime Musical Achievement, presented by the Student Alumni Association of University of California, Los Angeles. Past recipients included Julie Andrews, Ella Fitzgerald and Ray Charles. But the Portland Press Herald reports that the award was rescinded after the association was told of a domestic disturbance involving Don and Patrisha McLean in 2016. McLean pleaded guilty to domestic violence assault, which was dismissed after he met the terms of a plea agreement. The couple are now divorced. His spokesman called it "disrespectful" for an award to be rescinded over failure to conduct due diligence on a widely reported incident.

Australian DJ known as Adam Sky dies on Bali island

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An Australian DJ popular on the Asian club circuit was found dead after suffering massive bleeding from an injury at a resort complex on the Indonesian island of Bali, police said Monday.

Adam Neat's official social media pages carried a statement confirming his death, saying he died while trying to help a friend who suffered multiple fractures on Saturday.

Indonesian police said they are still investigating the death of the 42-year-old performer, who used the stage name Adam Sky. An initial police report seen by The Associated Press said Neat suffered a deep and wide cut to his arm that caused massive bleeding.

Local police chief Dody Monza said the body was found lying near a bathroom in his bedroom by two housekeepers at Hillstone Villa where the DJ stayed in Bali, a few minutes after they heard a woman scream for help.

Police said a 22-year-old Russian woman described as a friend of Neat's was found naked beside the villa with a broken leg, while blood-stained glass fragments were found in Neat's room. Police did not say how the woman was injured.

Police Detective Muhammad Nurul Yaqin said a preliminary investigation showed that Neat was drunk at the time and smashed a glass window in his bedroom. Part of the broken window fell on his right arm, causing severe bleeding, he said.

"We cannot conclude yet whether he intended to break the glass or accidentally hit it," he said.

Monza said Neat's wife arrived in Bali after his death and refused an autopsy.

Comedian Amy Schumer welcomes her own 'royal baby'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Meghan Markle isn't the only one celebrating a newborn today . Comedian Amy Schumer has also given birth to her first child.

Schumer and husband Chris Fischer's son was born Sunday night according to her Instagram where she posted a photo of her family of three. In the caption she writes that at "10:55 p.m. last night. Our royal baby was born."

Since Schumer revealed her pregnancy, she has joked about what it is like to be expecting at the same time as the Duchess of Sussex. She even speculated in her Netflix special that they were to the day, the same amount of pregnant.

The 37-year-old has also been quite open about her difficult pregnancy and struggles with hyperemesis gravidarum, which caused her persistent sickness.

Man's private mailbox leads wife to question finances

DEAR ABBY: I have been happily married for more than 40 years. Since he retired a couple of years ago, it has come to my attention that he has been getting mail at a separate private mailbox. I don't see a good reason for this, and it is weighing on me heavily.

I don't want to make a big deal out of it, but I'm concerned. He sees all our bills and evidently pays other ones I'm not aware of. Because of this, I feel like a second-class citizen who is too stupid to know all the ins and outs of our finances.

Because I don't see anything he buys or pays for, I remain in the dark. Conversely, he sees where every penny I spend goes. It's not that he isn't generous; I lack for nothing. It's that he is secretive. (I don't think he is into porn or something else nefarious.)

At this stage in my marriage, have you any advice for me? If I confront him, I'm not confident he would give me all the information. Am I being too demanding? Should I let sleeping dogs lie?

IN THE DARK IN THE NORTHWEST

DEAR IN THE DARK: Unless you want to become like so many unfortunate women whose husbands keep the details of their finances from "the little woman," you will tell your husband you want to know how much money you both have, how it is invested and where it goes. If he is resistant, explain that women usually outlive their husbands, and you do not want to be caught flat-footed in addition to grieving in the event of his demise. If your marriage is as strong as you describe, he should recognize the wisdom in it. Right now the mailbox is the least of your worries. Save that conversation for another time.

DEAR ABBY: I recently got engaged, and my wedding is a year and a half away. My best friend, "Crystal," is going to be my maid of honor.

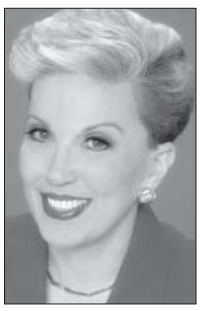
I know everyone has different insecurities, so I'm letting my bridesmaids choose their own dresses as long as they are the right color. However, I'm worried about Crystal and her dress. She's larger than the other girls. I know she will want to lose weight for the wedding. She has been saying she wants to lose weight for some time. Unfortunately, she isn't committed, and she stress eats.

I was thinking about having her come with me and buying a dress for her. While I'm trying to keep the dresses cheap, I know they can be expensive. Should I order the size Crystal thinks she will get down to? Current size? Bigger? I know it's usually better to order up because it's easier to make dresses smaller than larger. I don't know what to do and don't want to insult her.

BAFFLED BRIDE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR BAFFLED BRIDE: The responsibility for choosing a dress that fits should be Crystal's, not yours. If you insert yourself into the process, and the dress is too small by the time the wedding rolls around, the blame may fall on you. If you suggest she buy something (in the right color) closer to the date of the wedding, the chances are better that it will fit.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

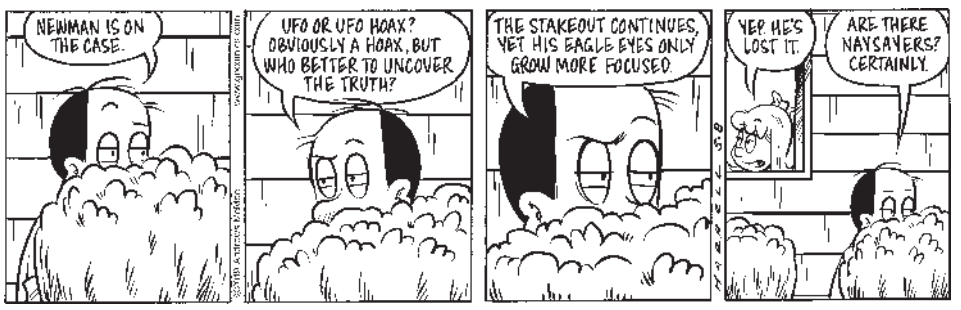
ARE YOU STILL AWAKE TOO?
MM-HMM. I WAS THINKING.
IT'S FUNNY...WHEN I WAS A KID, I THOUGHT GROWN-UPS NEVER WORRIED ABOUT ANYTHING. I TRUSTED MY PARENTS TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, AND IT NEVER OCCURRED TO ME THAT THEY MIGHT NOT KNOW HOW.
I FIGURED THAT ONCE YOU GREW UP, YOU AUTOMATICALLY KNEW WHAT TO DO IN ANY GIVEN SCENARIO.
I DON'T THINK I'D HAVE BEEN IN SUCH A HURRY TO REACH ADULTHOOD IF I'D KNOWN THE WHOLE THING WAS GOING TO BE AD-LIBBED.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


NEWMAN IS ON THE CASE.
UFO OR UFO HOAX? OBVIOUSLY A HOAX, BUT WHO BETTER TO UNCOVER THE TRUTH?
THE STAKEOUT CONTINUES, YET HIS EAGLE EYES ONLY GROW MORE FOCUSED.
YEP. HE'S LOST IT.
ARE THERE NAYSAYERS? CERTAINLY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I THINK OUR TEAM'S HITTING is GOING TO KEEP GETTING WORSE.
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
THE ENTIRE INFIELD WAS JUST IN FRONT OF ME IN LINE AT THE BEER STAND.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Appear
5 Commotion
8 Online auction site
12 Actress Fisher
13 Part of DJIA
14 Dell
15 Youthful countenance
17 Laundry appliance
18 Soft leather
19 Columns of light
21 Pro votes
24 Numerical prefix
25 July's stone
28 It ain't worth a nickel
30 Prattle
33 "Life — cabaret ..."
34 Stuns, as a perp
35 "Bali —"
36 Chum
37 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
38 Wild guess
39 Run after K
41 For fear that
43 "No cheating!"
46 Eucalyptus eater
50 Thames town
51 Temporary mental fatigue
54 Dazzle
55 Here, in Dijon
56 Slangy suffix
57 Skater Lipinski
58 Muppet eagle
59 Dance partner?

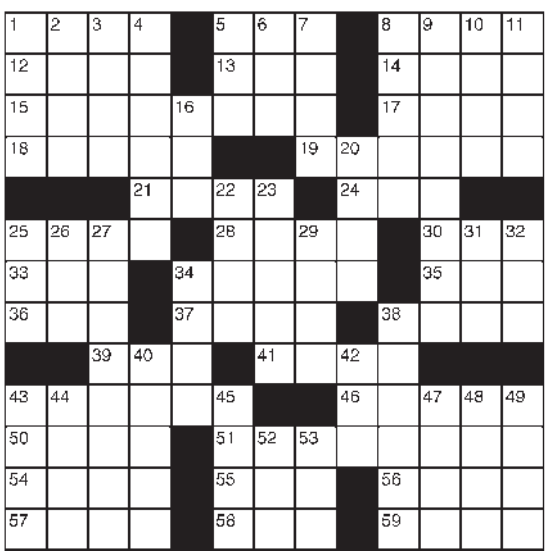
DOWN

1 Bloodline sharers
2 Jacob's twin
3 North Sea feeder
4 "Help!"
5 Oklahoma city
6 Elmer, to Bugs
7 Has bills
8 Perrier rival
9 Brawl that's broken up by a bouncer
10 Oodles
11 Desires
16 Tina of "30 Rock"
20 Colorations
22 Wax-coated cheese
23 Twine fiber
25 Wardrobe malfunction
26 "Suits" network
27 Jim Bouton book
29 Simple
31 Small battery
32 Clothing protector
34 Writer Morrison
38 Gems
40 Food from heaven
42 Enjoy Aspen
43 Optimum
44 Jazzy James
45 Baseball stats
47 Roundish 'do
48 Lake bird
49 Awe-struck
52 Nipper's co.
53 Goal

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	L	T	O		E	L	L		M	A	V	S
R	E	I	N		B	A	A		A	L	E	E
F	I	L	E	D	O	W	N		I	O	T	A
			I	A	N		C	O	T	T	O	N
E	A	R	L	Y		L	E	D	A			
D	U	E	L		F	I	L	E	I	T	O	N
A	D	A		O	R	E	O	S		U	M	A
M	I	L	E	P	O	S	T		A	B	E	T
			L	U	L	L		P	I	A	N	O
H	O	P	E	S	O		F	I	P			
M	M	I	V		N	I	L	E	B	L	U	E
O	I	S	E		G	N	U		L	S	S	R
S	T	A	N		S	A	X		S	U	E	S

Yesterday's answer 5-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stephen Amell, 38; Enrique Iglesias, 44; Melissa Gilbert, 55; David Keith, 65.

Happy Birthday: Know what you want before you decide to discuss your plans. Preparation will be the key to your success this year, so don't try to whizz your way to the top without strategy and structure in place. Positive changes will take place if you have patience, integrity and the know-how when dealing with people critical to your advancement. Your numbers are 4, 17, 22, 25, 32, 41, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't push your luck when dealing with someone who is in a higher position. Listen and learn. You'll make a good impression and be given more responsibility. A business trip will lead to greater opportunity. Romance will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* What you accomplish on your own will put you in a good bartering position. Issues concerning institutions, government agencies and medical facilities should be handled with transparency. Physical action is encouraged if you want to reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Think before you respond or act. You'll be inclined to agree to something you shouldn't. Excess will lead to a problem with the person you share your responsibilities with. Concentrate on nurturing important relationships. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Channel your energy in a positive direction. Open up to someone you care about, and build a closer bond. Give-and-take will help you accomplish your goals. Choose peace and love over arguing and an emotional meltdown. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Set boundaries when dealing with people who are unpredictable. Listen carefully, and be on guard to counter any negativity that comes your way. Look for ways to improve your health, looks and your appeal. Romance or networking should be a priority. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Your involvement in trade shows, seminars, business trips and meetings will give you the advantage when it comes to work, educational pursuits and advancement. A favor owed will be honored. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Tread carefully when dealing with matters of an emotional nature. Look for a way to keep the peace and to use your intelligence and charm to get others to pitch in and help. Don't reveal family secrets. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn as you go. Experience is the spice of life, and integrating who and what you know with what you want to learn will give you a broader outlook regarding what's possible. Do your own thing; avoid joint ventures. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Refuse to let anyone meddle in your affairs or pressure you into doing something you shouldn't. Focus on health, fitness and avoiding trouble. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Personal improvements can be made. A change of attitude will help you clear up a problem you have with someone. Winning over people will be easier if you can offer something for their time or trouble. Don't make an unnecessary purchase. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stay active, and keep your plans rolling forward. The busier you are, the easier it will be to avoid unpredictable situations. Don't reveal your secrets, private information or passwords. Personal improvements can be initiated. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Problems at home or at work will surface if you let your emotions take over. If you overreact or make assumptions, you will end up looking bad. Put your energy into helping others and finding unique ways to use your skills. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are responsible, engaging and cerebral. You are private and compassionate.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5	6		
		6			7	
		9			4	5
	7 5		9	2		
2		6 3	1		5	
4					6	
	3				2	
	9	7 1	8	4		
		3	4			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	2	9	4	1	7	6	8	5
6	4	5	8	3	9	7	2	1
1	8	7	6	5	2	3	4	9
2	7	6	9	4	1	5	3	8
9	3	8	7	2	5	1	6	4
4	5	1	3	8	6	2	9	7
5	9	2	1	6	4	8	7	3
7	1	3	2	9	8	4	5	6
8	6	4	5	7	3	9	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THE ANCIENT GAME OF GO **Solution: 8 letters**

T	S	S	E	C	E	I	P	O	S	I	T	I	O	N
C	E	U	R	S	T	E	S	E	G	D	E	Y	E	S
A	N	R	T	E	M	C	E	P	A	H	S	S	R	L
R	O	R	R	A	Y	S	E	L	U	R	Y	E	O	L
T	T	O	G	I	T	A	S	K	I	A	N	E	C	A
S	S	U	W	S	T	S	L	A	L	R	S	G	S	W
B	A	N	P	T	T	O	P	P	O	N	E	N	T	E
A	B	D	K	W	T	R	R	C	L	U	S	E	Ⓝ	I
P	L	R	C	E	H	R	A	Y	I	D	A	L	Ⓐ	Q
O	A	A	A	C	G	I	S	T	F	I	B	L	Ⓓ	I
I	C	O	T	H	H	N	T	I	E	R	S	A	E	M
N	K	B	T	I	K	A	A	E	D	G	M	H	V	O
T	W	F	A	N	E	G	I	R	N	E	Y	C	O	K
S	E	O	A	A	K	O	D	N	R	I	S	E	M	W
L	D	R	D	I	A	E	M	E	S	A	L	I	V	E

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Abstract, Alive, Arrange, Attack, Bases, Black, Board, Chains, Challenge, China, Corners, Dame, Dan, Dok, Down, Edges, Eye, Game, Goe, Grid, Komi, Left, Life, Line, Moved, Opponent, Pairs, Pieces, Players, Plays, Points, Position, Rank, Rise, Rules, Score, Semeai, Sets, Shape, Show, Sides, Status, Stones, Strategy, Surround, Task, Territory, Two, Walls, Weiqi, White

Yesterday's Answer: Dylan

Treasuries 13 through 18 and **20 through 34** can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 02-2019

Opening date: April 29, 2019 Closing date: May 17, 2019

Positions:
(1) Receptionist/Secretary (Saipan)
(1) BHS Technician (Saipan)
(1) Assistant Custodial Supervisor (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, May 17, 2019.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Scuba Diving Instructor (Self-Enrichment Educational Teachers) x1

Work Location: Garapan, Saipan & all diving sites in the CNMI and Guam

Working Hours: Full-time (8hrs/day, 40hrs/week; Flex Time)

Wage: $27,310.00/year; frequency= monthly; O.T.= x 1.5

Job Duties: Teach, instruct, and guide scuba diving activities to individuals or groups at public or private facilities. Explain & demonstrate the basics of scuba diving & teach proper use of diving equipments. Conduct certification classes to achieve proficiency in diving. Supervise other scuba diving instructors. May assist customers at Employer's outdoor sports retail shop, and do other related duties as assigned.

Requirements: Minimum 2 years of work experience as scuba diving instructor. Must be a PADI or NAUI certified Scuba Diving Instructor. Must be able to speak/read/write Japanese language enough to instruct scuba diving to tourists from Japan, that dominates the Company's customers.

Compensations: Workers' Compensation & scuba diving instructor insurance provided. Other Compensations negotiable.

Please send your resume with a copy of your diving instructor license, or your inquiry by e-mail or fax to:
AQUA CONNECTIONS, INC. E-mail aquainc@pticom.com
Fax: (670) 233-3304

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

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Tiger receives Presidential Medal of Freedom

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At times choked up by the magnitude of the White House proceedings as President Trump listed many of the milestones of his career, Tiger Woods received the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Monday in a ceremony at the Rose Garden.

On a beautiful sunny spring evening, an emotional Woods reached another peak in a comeback for the ages. He is the first active athlete among the 33 from the sports world to earn the medal, the nation's highest civilian honor.

A humbled Woods took the podium to a standing ovation after Trump delivered about 15 minutes of introductory remarks lauding Woods' professional and philanthropic accomplishments.

"This has been an unbelievable experience," said Woods, who was particularly moved by mentions of his family by the president.

"It's an incredible privilege to be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom," Woods later tweeted. "Considering the recipients, history, and what this means to me and my family, it's also very humbling. Thank you all for your support and I hope this inspires others to never give up on their dreams."

Woods' fifth victory at Augusta National at age 43 last month capped off "one of the most incredible comebacks that golf, or any sport, has ever seen," Trump said. "Tiger, we are inspired by everything you've become and attained."

Woods wore a blue suit, white shirt and red tie, looking nearly identical to the president as they stood side by side. Among those in attendance were vice president Mike Pence, Sen. Mitt Romney; Woods' mother, Kultida Woods; his son, Charlie; his daughter, Sam; his girlfriend, Erica Herman; and his caddie, Joe LaCava. Trump also paid tribute to Woods' late father, Earl. Trump pointed out LaCava by name for a quick round of applause.

He called Woods "one of the greatest athletes in all of sports … a true legend." Trump credited Woods with introducing golf to many people around the world.

The president offered a detailed rundown of Woods' golf biography and timeline, and detailed his medical comeback from various setbacks. During his speech, Trump offered several detailed examples of Woods' success on the course.

"It was in 1997 at Augusta National, Bobby Jones' temple to the sport of golf, that the game would forever change," Trump said. "For four straight days at the Masters tournament, Tiger stunned the world with his power, grace and strategic brilliance."

Woods would win that first green jacket by a record 12 shots, becoming the youngest Masters champion at age 21 and the first person of African-American or Asian heritage to win at Augusta National.

As the New York Times headline said the next day, "Woods tears up Augusta and tears down barriers," Trump said. "Incredible achievement.

"We can't wait to see what's next Tiger," Trump added at the end of his speech. "There are no winners like you."

Both Trump and Woods laughed when the president recalled how Woods fell to No. 1191 in the Official World Golf Rankings. Woods is holding steady this week at No. 6.

Woods is the 33rd sports figure and fourth golfer to receive the medal. Arnold Palmer (2004), Jack Nicklaus (2005) and Charlie Sifford (2014) were honored previously.

Woods again Monday called Sifford "the grandfather I never had." Woods said he named his son in Sifford's honor.

Sifford, who died in 2015 at the age of 92, began playing golf in an age when much of the nation was still legally segregated. Sifford was the first African-American player to earn a PGA Tour card. After the age of 45, he won Greater Hartford Open Invitational and the Los Angeles Open.

Woods has won 81 PGA Tour events and 15 major championships. Trump announced he would present Woods with the award, the nation's highest civilian honor the president can bestow, the day after Woods won his fifth Masters last month.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is awarded for "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors."

Woods and Trump have been frequent golfing partners and have a relationship that pre-dates Trump's run for the presidency by nearly 20 years. During his speech the President noted how he met Woods through his foundation, and praised him for his philanthropic efforts.

After Woods won the 1997 Masters at the age of 21, he celebrated his victory in Atlantic City at Trump's Taj Mahal casino and was photographed with the future president. Trump named a villa in Woods' honor at Trump National Doral Miami. Woods in 2014 agreed to design a golf course in Dubai for a project that was to be managed by the Trump Organization.

The medal ceremony marked another milestone for Woods during what is his most impressive comeback of all.

Woods was arrested in May of 2017 on DUI charges and later completed a pre-trial diversion program and his probation term one month early. The timeline between his fourth Masters victory in 2005 and fifth in 2019 also included four surgeries on his back and four more on his knees, a humiliating public breakup with his ex-wife after a calmatious incident the day after Thanksgiving in 2009, a five-year victory drought on the PGA Tour, reinventing his approach to golf and rebuilding his ability to play.

Before he entered the 2017 Hero World Challenge, Woods had fallen to that 1191 number in the Official World Golf Ranking due to his extended absence from competition

AP

Golfer Tiger Woods speaks after President Donald Trump awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom in a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, Monday, May 6, 2019.

Newton feeling good after surgery

NORTH CAROLINA—It's never a great sign for a quarterback to undergo shoulder surgery, but so far Cam Newton is feeling good.

Newton, whose right throwing shoulder was clearly hurting last season and was shut down with two games to go, had arthroscopic surgery in late January. That was a best-case scenario, compared to a more invasive surgery.

All of the news in the offseason has been positive for Newton, and he said he's doing well.

Newton said that the recovery from the surgery, in which scar tissue was removed that remained from a 2017 surgery on a partially torn rotator cuff, was "unbelievable."

"I'm feeling great now," Newton told ESPN.com. "I feel like I do have full strength right now. But me telling the doctor, that is different than, you know, whatever the clearance process may be."

There's the nugget in there that Newton hasn't been cleared, and there's no timetable for that yet. Newton didn't sound concerned about it, saying he felt stronger mentally and physically, and through the ESPN.com interview he referenced the team and himself being patient.

The ordeal with Andrew Luck of the Colts, in which the Colts put on a happy face through 2017 only to have Luck miss the whole season due to shoulder surgery, makes everything a little scarier. There's no reason to disbelieve Newton, who had a much less serious and different surgery than Luck, but it will still be a relief when Newton is handling a normal workload on the practice field.

The Panthers are going to have to figure out ways to keep the former NFL MVP healthy. He has 929 rushing attempts, most for a quarterback in NFL history (he passed Michael Vick's 873 last season). It's hard to take that kind of punishment, even for a man of Newton's size. There is a reason the Panthers drafted a quarterback, a move Newton embraced.

Before the Panthers focus on a plan to keep Newton upright, they need to get him back to 100 percent first. It seems he's on the right path.

Meawhile, the Los Angeles Rams have re-signed linebacker Bryce Hager to a one-year deal.

The NFC champions announced the deal Monday.

Hager has contributed steadily on special teams since he joined the Rams as a seventh-round draft pick in 2015. He has played in every game over the past four seasons, and he played a team-high 80 percent of Los Angeles' special teams snaps last season.

Hager also was a backup interior linebacker for Los Angeles in the past two seasons. He could earn more playing time on defense after the Rams released Mark Barron in March.

In New Jersey, the Jets have waived former Troy University and Alliance of American Football quarterback Brandon Silvers.

The move Monday clears a spot in what was a crowded quarterback room that includes starter Sam Darnold, backup Trevor Siemian, Davis Webb and Luke Falk.

Silvers became expendable when New York claimed Falk off waivers from Miami last week.

The Jets signed Silvers last month after he started three games for the Memphis Express of the AAF and threw for 777 yards and four touchdowns with one interception. The 24-year-old Silvers went undrafted last year after finishing his four-year career at Troy with 10,677 yards passing, which ranks second in school history, and 71 touchdowns and 29 interceptions.

Giannis too much for Celtics, Bucks near finals

BOSTON (AP) — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 39 points and 16 rebounds to lead the Bucks to a 113-101 victory over the Boston Celtics in Game 4 of their second-round playoff series on Monday night and move Milwaukee within one win from its first trip to the Eastern Conference finals since 2001.

"Giannis, it's hard to find the words (for) what he does for our team, both ends of the court," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. "He's special, but he's very hungry. He wants more, and he's playing that way."

The Bucks have won three straight since losing the opener of the best-of-seven series at home and can eliminate the Celtics in Game 5 at home on Wednesday night. They have not reached the East finals since the '01 team of Ray Allen and Glenn Robinson fell to Philadelphia's Allen Iverson and Dikembe Mutombo in seven games.

Boston beat Milwaukee in seven games in the first round last year and went on to lose to LeBron James and the Cavaliers in seven games in last year's conference finals. They will have to win three straight—two of them on the road—to return.

"It takes a lot of mental fortitude, it takes a lot of mental toughness, and it reveals a lot," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "I'm looking forward to that challenge."

One game after Antetokounmpo was two assists shy of a triple-double, he scored 17 points with seven rebounds in the fourth quarter to help the Bucks pull away. Reserves George Hill, who scored 15 points, and Pat Connaughton, who had nine points and 10 rebounds, again led the Bucks bench, which outscored Boston's 32-7.

"Yeah that was killer," Stevens said. "Their bench comes in, they've had no dropoff. Connaughton's been excellent. George Hill's been absolutely tremendous."

In what might be his last home game for the Celtics, Kyrie Irving scored 23 points with 10 assists. But he was 7 for 22 from the floor, including 1 for 7 from 3-point range; after leading all scorers with 26 points in Boston's Game 1 blowout, he has made 19 of 62 shots and just 4 of 20 from 3-point range.

Irving, who can become a free agent this summer, left the court to a lone fan shouting at him, "Don't leave!"

Boston led by as many as 11 points before Connaughton made a long 3 at the first-quarter buzzer to make it 30-22. With about five minutes left in the second, the Bucks scored eight straight points to tie it.

Boston led 67-65 before Milwaukee scored 13 of the next 14 points—seven of them by Hill—to open a double-digit lead. The Bucks made it 12 points early in the fourth.

Rockets 112, Warriors 108

In Houston, the wildly entertaining and physical scrap that has been this Western Conference semifinal went into overdrive on Monday night as the Rockets won a second straight home game to level the series at 2-2 and write another chapter in the modern history between these fierce rivals.

James Harden was unstoppable with 38 points, Eric Gordon made another telling contribution with 20, and the two-time defending champions have an almighty battle on their hands if they are to continue their push for another championship.

After being on the cusp of a 3-0 advantage when Game 3 went to overtime on Saturday the Warriors have seen momentum slip entirely away from them.

In truth, it hasn't really slipped, it has been yanked clear of their grasp, the fiery Rockets finding desperation and desire amid their familiar surrounds of the Toyota Center ever since the series switched from Northern California.

Every ball has been contested, every shot harangued, forcing Golden State to rush, make mistakes and abandon their cool-headed consistency.

Kevin Durant was again the primary beacon for the visitors with another 34 points, but his colleagues were stymied all too often by the Houston defense. Both Durant and Stephen Curry had long-range shots to tie it in the waning moments. If they had connected and the Warriors had snuck away with a win, it would have been tantamount to robbery.

While the Rockets were highly competitive in the first two games and had a chance in both, it is hard to take too many positives from a 2-0 deficit. Yet Mike D'Antoni's men have refused to let their heads drop. More than any other team the Warriors have played in recent times, they truly believe they can beat Golden State. Two wins out of three over the coming days and they will do so for what would be an almighty playoff shock, regardless of the closeness of last year's seven-game Western Conference finals.

The Warriors tried to get Curry going early after his miserable Game 3, and he compiled an 11-point first quarter—ultimately ending with 30. It wasn't enough. The Rockets found contributors all over the floor, but it was Harden, unsurprisingly, who they went to time and again.

Andre Iguodala narrowed the gap to seven with a 3 in the final second of the first half, and a run late in the third quarter tightened the gap, which had ballooned to 17, all the way in to four.

Always, however, Houston had the answer. In the end, only just, after Harden uncharacteristically missed a free throw to leave Golden State down three on its final possession.

Houston have gotten everything they could have hoped for a few days ago. They don't have home-court advantage, but they have bundles of confidence spurring them. Things are in the balance, and it is Golden State who must now answer.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) grabs a rebound against Boston Celtics' Terry Rozier (12) and Jaylen Brown (7) during the first half of Game 4 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Boston, Monday, May 6, 2019.

Sources: Lakers, Lue working on contract

The Los Angeles Lakers and Tyronn Lue are in the process of working on a contract agreement that would make Lue the franchise's next head coach, league sources told.

Lue, 42, has not accepted the position yet as both sides continue to focus on contractual parameters, sources said. If Lue takes the job, Frank Vogel—former coach of the Indiana Pacers and Orlando Magic—could join his staff as a lead assistant, sources added.

Kurt Rambis—a former Lakers player and coach whose wife, Linda, is a trusted confidant and adviser to team owner Jeanie Buss—has had a significant role in the hiring process, sources said.

Monty Williams was targeted by the Lakers as a finalist for the position, but he took the same role with the Phoenix Suns on Friday. □

Lue coached LeBron James with the Cleveland Cavaliers for two and a half seasons, posting a 128-77 record in that span. □

The pair guided the team to the city's first major championship in 52 years in 2016, completing a historic 3-1 comeback to dethrone the Golden State Warriors. □

Lue played 11 years in the NBA (1998-2009) and won two championships with the Lakers during his first three seasons in the league.

Cavs to interview Spurs assistant Messina

Meanwhile, the Cavaliers experimented with a successful European coach a few years ago with mixed results. They may try it again.

Cleveland has scheduled an interview this week with San Antonio Spurs assistant Ettore Messina, a person familiar with the Cavs' coaching search said Monday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is keeping details of its search confidential.

Messina's coaching resume includes an impeccable run in Europe, where he won numerous titles and also coached Italy's national team. The 59-year-old Messina has worked on coach Gregg Popovich's staff in San Antonio since 2014 and is widely regarded as one of the NBA's top assistants.

He'll be the second Spurs assistant to meet with Cleveland, which interviewed Ime Udoka on Sunday.

It's not known if owner Dan Gilbert is taking part in the interviews.

The Cavs ended an expansive, 39-day search for a coach in 2014 by hiring David Blatt, who like Messina, had major success in Europe. But while Blatt did win with Cleveland, getting the team to the NBA Finals in his first season, he struggled to mesh with players, including mega star LeBron James, and was fired midway through his second season despite a 30-11 record.

Cleveland went on to win the title that season under Lue, who was fired early last season after an 0-6 start.

The Cavs are in the fourth week of a coaching search that began after the team parted with Larry Drew, who went 19-57 after replacing Lue. Drew endured a season filled with injuries and roster upheaval.

Cleveland's front office previously interviewed Dallas assistant Jamahl Mosley, Miami assistant Juwan Howard, former Memphis coach J.B. Bickerstaff and Utah assistant Alex Jensen. The team has received permission to speak with Denver assistants Jordi Fernandez and Wes Unseld Jr. as well as Portland assistants David Vanterpool and Nate Tibbets.

But, it's unlikely the Cavs will speak to any of those candidates until after their teams have been eliminated.

Yanks stun Félix, back Sabathia in win over Mariners

NEW YORK (AP) — It had been a decade since pitchers with so many combined punchouts started the same game.

In this showdown between Félix Hernández and CC Sabathia, the New York Yankees landed their haymakers early.

The Yankees pounced on Hernández, hitting three homers in the first two innings to build a comfortable cushion for Sabathia in a 7-3 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Monday night.

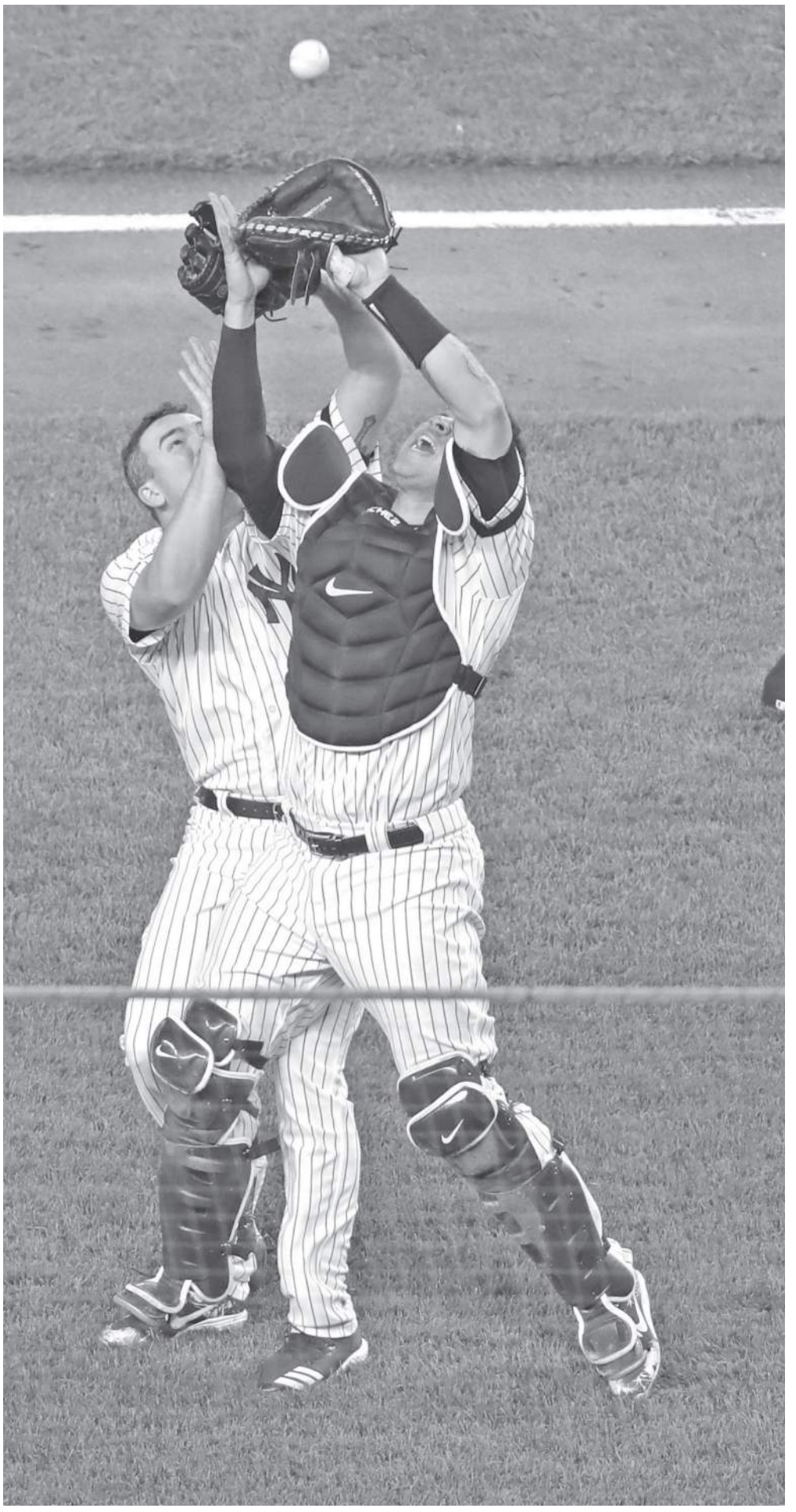
Luke Voit, Brett Gardner and Thairo Estrada homered off Hernández while New York gave Sabathia a 7-0 lead and held on for its 12th win in 16 games. Hernández (1-3) settled in after the second, completing five innings of seven-run ball.

Hernandez had allowed just two homers in 12 career starts in the Bronx. He allowed three in seven batters Monday.

"One of those nights when I didn't have my best stuff," Hernández said.

Domingo Santana and Dee Gordon homered off Sabathia, but the oversized lefty limited Seattle to three runs over five innings. Sabathia (2-1) struck out five in his first start since becoming the 17th pitcher with 3,000 strikeouts last week.

Sabathia and Hernández entered with a combined 5,498 strikeouts, the most between opposing starters since San Francisco's Randy Johnson (4,867) faced Houston's Roy Oswalt (1,418) in 2009.



AP

New York Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez, right, and relief pitcher Jonathan Holder attempt to catch a pop fly by Seattle Mariners' Jay Bruce in the fifth inning of a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Monday, May 6, 2019, in New York.

Rays 12, Diamondbacks 1

In St. Petersburg, Blake Snell retired the first 17 batters, Tommy Pham hit a grand slam, and the Tampa Bay Rays cruised past the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Snell (3-3) was perfect through 5 2/3 innings before Ildemaro Vargas hit a sharp single between third base and shortstop. The left-hander hit the next batter, Tim Locastro, before getting Ketel Marte to ground out to end the inning.

Snell struck out nine and walked none in six innings, leaving with a 7-0 lead. The reigning American League Cy Young Award winner had lost his previous two starts, lasting a total of 6 1/3 innings, after coming off the 10-day injured list following his recovery from a broken toe in his right foot.

Cardinals 6, Phillies 0

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina went 3-for-4 with a two-run homer, and Miles Mikolas pitched seven shutout innings as the Cardinals halted a four-game skid in blanking Philadelphia.

Matt Carpenter and Paul DeJong also slugged homers for St. Louis, which improved to 13-4 at home. Mikolas (4-2) faced just one hitter over the minimum while winning for the third time in his past four starts. He gave up three hits, struck out five and walked none.

Brewers 5, Nationals 3

In Milwaukee, Ben Gamel had three hits and scored twice, and Orlando Arcia added three hits and a run as the Brewers beat sleep-deprived and defensive-challenged Washington.

The Nationals sat on the airport tarmac for nearly eight hours in Philadelphia after their game Sunday against the Phillies. The team returned to its hotel for a few hours, left Philadelphia about 10 a.m. ET and arrived in Wisconsin about seven hours before the first pitch.

Astros 6, Royals 4

In Houston, Robinson Chirinos' two-run homer in the sixth inning allowed the Astros to retake the lead, and the Astros held on to beat Kansas City in the opener of the three-game series.

Carlos Correa had three hits, including a solo home run, and George Springer doubled, homered and drove in two runs for the Astros, who have won three in a row. Houston right-hander Gerrit Cole (3-4), who leads the majors with 74 strikeouts, fanned nine and didn't walk a batter.

Orioles 4, Red Sox 1

In Baltimore, Jonathan Villar hit a grand slam, and John Means threw seven solid innings as the Orioles defeated Boston in the opener of a three-game series.

The slam was the second of Villar's career and Baltimore's first this season. Means (4-3) gave up one run on three hits in his seven innings.

Boston's Josh A. Smith (0-1) went 3 1/3 innings in his first major league start since 2016, and he gave up four runs on five hits.

Twins 8, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Jason Castro, Eddie Rosario and Jorge Polanco hit home runs, Martin Perez recorded a career-best nine strikeouts, and Minnesota won.

Perez (5-0) held the Blue Jays to two hits and two walks in seven innings. Castro had two hits and three RBIs, while Polanco and Nelson Cruz each had three hits in the opener of a three-game series. Castro left the game in the ninth inning due to a bruised right elbow after being hit by a pitch in the eighth.

White Sox 9, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Ivan Nova pitched seven strong innings for his first win of the season and Yoan Moncada homered and drove in four runs for the White Sox.

James McCann added a solo homer for the White Sox, and Leury Garcia had three hits. Nova (1-3) allowed a run on eight hits and a walk. He struck out five.

Marlins 6, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Rosell Herrera, Miguel Rojas and Martin Prado drove in runs in the top of the ninth inning, and Miami rallied for the win.

Jon Berti homered and Brian Anderson and Starlin Castro knocked in one run apiece for Miami, which snapped a three-game losing streak and won for only the second time in its past nine contests.

Padres 4, Mets 0

In San Diego, Hunter Renfroe homered leading off the fifth inning night to break up a scoreless duel between rookie Chris Paddack and New York ace Jacob deGrom, and the Padres earned a win.

Paddack (3-1) went a career-long 7 2/3 innings while throwing a career-high 91 pitches. He gave up four hits and a walk with a career-high 11 strikeouts while lowering his ERA to 1.55. DeGrom (2-4) surrendered two runs on four hits over seven innings.

Dodgers 5, Braves 3

In Los Angeles, Walker Buehler matched a season high with eight strikeouts, and Chris Taylor had a pair of RBI hits as the Dodgers beat Atlanta for their eighth consecutive victory at Dodger Stadium.

Justin Turner added two hits and Corey Seager scored two runs as the Dodgers improved to 13-4 in their own park, where they have not lost since dropping a 5-0 decision to the Milwaukee Brewers on April 13.

Reds 12, Giants 4

In Cincinnati, Nick Senzel led off the first and second innings with home runs, and Jose Iglesias equaled his career-high with four RBIs, helping the Reds salvage a split of its four-game series against San Francisco.

Eugenio Suarez also homered for the Reds, who blasted 15 home runs in the four games and led all four by at least four runs despite only recording two wins.

No surprise in NL East: It's a grind so far

As expected, the NL East has been a grind so far.

The Phillies, Braves, Mets and Nationals are within five games of each other, with Philadelphia in first place at 19-14. Those four teams came into the season with high expectations , and given all the games they play against each other, it figured to be difficult for anyone to pull away. So far, that has been the case.

The Phillies beat Washington 7-1 on Sunday to widen their lead over the fourth-place Nationals. Philadelphia is 15-9 against the NL East, although that includes a 5-2 mark against the last-place Marlins.

The truth is, the top four teams in this fascinating division all have issues to worry about in the early going:

The Phillies have been solid, but so far Bryce Harper is having a similar season to last year—decent overall numbers, but a low batting average. He's hitting .233. Right-hander Nick Pivetta struggled so much, he earned a trip to the minors. Like in 2018, Philadelphia is near the bottom of the majors in defensive efficiency ratio.

Atlanta's pitching staff has a 4.29 ERA—and that's with Max Fried (2.11) and Mike Soroka (1.14) off to terrific starts. Sean Newcomb and Mike Foltynewicz have had a rough go of it so far.

The Mets have been outscored by 23 runs on the season and have allowed the second-most runs in the National League. That's startling, given how much they expect from their top two starters.

The Nationals have the worst ERA in the NL, and a few members of the bullpen have put up some truly ugly numbers. As for the everyday lineup: injuries to Trea Turner, Juan Soto and Anthony Rendon aren't helping.

FIFA adds new awards categories for women

ZURICH (AP)— FIFA is introducing gender parity for its awards by adding a women's goalkeeper category and a female team of the year.

The announcement on Monday ensures men and women will be in line for accolades in the same categories at the FIFA Best ceremony in Milan on Sept. 23.

FIFA Deputy Secretary General Zvonimir Boban said "FIFA is certain that France will host a groundbreaking edition of the FIFA Women's World Cup this year, so I cannot think of a better moment to introduce these new awards. It is yet another step in the right direction to raise the profile of women's football."

There were already both men's and women's players and coaches of the year awards.

US Soccer files response to lawsuit

In Los Angeles, 28 members of the current women's player pool filed the lawsuit March 8 in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles under the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, alleging "institutionalized gender discrimination" that includes unequal pay with their counterparts on the men's national team.

The USSF filed its answer on Monday, about one month before the Women's World Cup. The USSF claims every decision made "with respect to the conduct alleged in the complaint was for legitimate business reasons and not for any discriminatory or other unlawful purpose."

The federation has maintained the differences in pay are the result of different collective bargaining agreements that establish distinct pay structures for the two teams. Those agreements are not public.

AP

In this April 7, 2019, file photo, United States defender Ali Krieger (11) runs during an international friendly soccer match against Belgium, in Los Angeles.

U.S. Soccer also maintained in the response that any alleged differences in pay between the men's and women's national teams were not based on gender, but "differences in the aggregate revenue generated by the different teams and/or any other factor other than sex."

"There is no legal basis for USSF's claim that it is anything other than a single employer operating both the men's and women's teams—who face drastically unequal conditions and pay under their shared employer, said Molly Levinson, a spokeswoman for the national team players who filed the lawsuit. "The USSF cannot justify its violation of the Equal Pay Act and Title VII by pointing to the teams' separate collective bargaining agreements or any factor other than sex. Even as the most decorated American soccer team in history, USSF treats the women's team as 'less-than' equal compared to their male colleagues. We look forward to a trial next year after the World Cup."

The USSF and the women's team agreed in April 2017 to a collective bargaining agreement through 2021 that gave the players higher pay and better benefits.

The federation claims the allegations do not rise to the level required for punitive damages because there is no evidence of malicious, reckless or fraudulent intent to deny the players their rights.

The lawsuit brought by current national team players is an escalation of a long-simmering dispute over pay and treatment. Five players filed a complaint in 2016 with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that alleged wage discrimination by the federation. The lawsuit effectively ended that EEOC complaint

MCDONALD'S

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ternational competitions.

"McDonald's has been our consistent supporter. Every year, since 2005, they are with us, giving significant contribution so that we can hold this annual event. Without our partnership with McDonald's and other sponsors, it will be very difficult to keep this program running," NMA president Ray Tebuteb said.

Tebuteb along with NMA officials Robin Sapong and Greg Iginoef and Public School System Athletic director Nick Gross received the $3,000 check donation from McDonald's Saipan/Guam managing director and owner Marcia Ayuyu for the All Schools meet that concluded its elementary competition last weekend and will have the middle and high school events this Friday and Saturday. The donation turnover ceremony was held last Monday at McDonald's Middle Road.

"The PSS/McDonald's All Schools is our grassroots program—this is the backbone of CNMI athletics. Without this program, there won't we continuity in our development. We will not be able to send athletes to off-island competitions, so we would like to thank McDonald's and all our supporters for helping us keep and strengthen this program," the NMA head added.

Ayuyu vowed to continue the company and his family's commitment to the All Schools event.

"I, my husband, and our children have a heart for a program that benefits the kids. Through this program, we are able to encourage our children to stay active and get involved in sports," Ayuyus said.

"It's always great to see our children going out there, competing, and doing their best. To the parents, keep encouraging your children to play sports, be there at the track, cheer, and support them," she added.

CNMI

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Sunjoon Tenorio fired three straight goals before leaving the pitch due to a minor injury early in the second half to give the Teen Ayuyus enough cushion. Tenorio first scored in the 10th minute and had his second goal four minutes later before completing the hat trick in the 24th for a promising 3-0 advantage.

TanHoldings then ended its long silence in the 44th minute, thanks to Louie Calayag's shot. However, Calayag's goal could not spark a TanHoldings comeback in the second half, as the team failed to cash in on several scoring opportunities and was held to one goal in the final 45 minutes of play. Martin Jambor handed TanHoldings its second goal off a penalty kick in the 69th minute, two minutes after John Michael Rojas gave the CNMI U18 a 4-1 advantage.

PIC 4, Sun Palace 2

There was also an upset in the second semis game in Division B, as No. 3 Pacific Islands Club outgunned No. 2 Sun Palace in a shootout last Thursday.

Floyd Muna, Brandon Tenorio, Logan Mister, and John Guiller Canape delivered in the shootout for PIC, while only Jun Liu and Ri Cheng Xian hit the mark for Sun Palace.

Muna also played a key role in sending the game into a shootout after drilling the equalizer in the 82nd minute. Tenorio and Bailey Spaeth recorded the two other goals for PIC in regulation with the former lighting up the board in the 15th minute and the latter in the 44th.

After Tenorio's first goal, PIC clung to the shaky lead for a while, as Sun Palace did not score until the 59th minute off Won Jong Seo's shot. Max Yu then knotted the count in the 60th minute and managed to put Sun Palace on top and give PIC quite a scare with another goal in the 75th.

Fortunately for PIC, Muña came out to save the day for the team with the game-tying goal seven minutes later. PIC soldiered on, as its players were on target in the shootout.

With the victory, PIC will dispute the division championship against Shirley's FC, which earlier got the first finals ticket after dominating the CNMI Women's National Team, 6-2.

The CNMI WNT ended up finishing third in Division B after an easy win (via default) over Sun Palace last Sunday.

The PIC-Shirley's FC title showdown is also set for May 19 at 6pm.

BRILLIANT

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In the softball throw, SIS' Phoenix Gross took the gold medal, while Agape's Maru Fu and Saipan Community School's Katrina Wu bagged the silver and bronze, respectively.

In the girls U9 competition, Brilliant Star got a gold from Sari Barman, who toipped the 800m run. William S. Reyes' Erica Narruhn earned the silver, while Agape's Angeline Quan brought home the bronze.

In other results in the U9 division, Tinian's Ysabelle Lenteja notched the gold in the 60m run, while Koblerville's Elizha Maratita and Kagman's Aaliyah Cosmes also made it to the podium. Lenteja bagged three more gold medals after winning the 100m and 200m races and the softball throw.

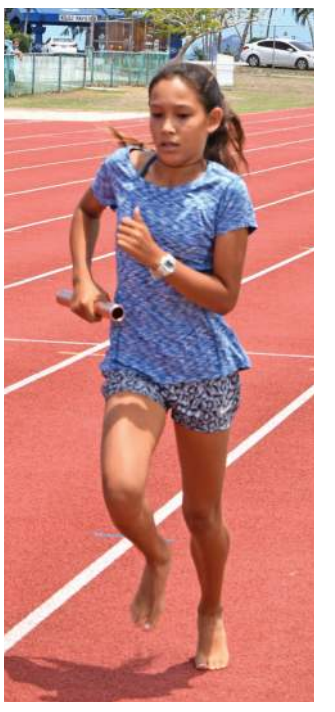
In the 400m run, the gold medal went to Koblerville's Jellydia Hong, while Barman and Tinian's Karrena Shrestha were awarded the silver and bronze, respectively. In the 1,500m run, Quan edged out two WSR runners—Yilu Wang and Jewell Saluta—for the gold medal.

JON PEREZ

The Top 3 finishers in the 4x100m relay run pose for a photo during the award ceremony for the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

In the long jump, Kagman got a gold medal off Paige Bianco's first place finish, while Hong settled for the silver, and Barman pocketed the bronze.

Meanwhile, the Top 5 overall finishers in the boys elementary division along with the results in the boys U9 and U11 events will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Thursday edition.



JON PEREZ

Brilliant Star School's Savita Sikkle pushes herself, as she heads to the finish line of the 4x100m relay run during the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Tiger receives Presidential Medal of Freedom

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Brilliant Star shines

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Brilliant Star School clinched the overall title in the girls elementary division of the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI Boys U18 National Team's John Michael Rojas, left, checks his teammate first before dribbling the ball, while TanHoldings Football Club's Martin Jambor stays close on defense during their semis game in Division A of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Old B Bank vs CNMI U18 in finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The No. 3 seed The Old B Bank stunned No. 2 Paire Football Club, 4-1, in their semis game in the Division A of the 2019 Spring Men's M-League last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Hwapyong Kim powered The Old B Bank to the upset after scoring a hat rick, while Michiteru Mita delivered the other goal for the first finalist. Mita drew first blood with his shot in the sixth minute and The Old B Bank went on to take a 2-0 halftime lead after Kim hit the board two minutes before the opening frame wrapped up.

While it took awhile before Kim hit his target in the first half, the Old B Bank striker found the back of the net early in the second with his conversion in the 47th minute or just two at the resumption of the match. Kim went on to make it three in a row in the 78th minute, while Paire avoided a shutout loss after Patrick McCallion scored a few seconds later.

With the victory, The Old B Bank will challenge the undefeated CNMI Boys U18 National Team for the division crown on May 19 at 4pm.

The CNMI U18 bagged the second finals ticket and stretched its winning run this season to seven following a 4-2 triumph over TanHoldings FC in the other semis game last weekend.

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JON PEREZ

A Brilliant Star School student, right, hands over the baton to her teammate during the 4x100m relay run in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Brilliant Star scored 153 points to beat perennial winner Koblerville Elementary School (125), Saipan International School (125), Tinian Elementary School (87), and Agape Christian School. Points were awarded to schools based on how their students finished in the U7, U9, and U11 age groups' 60m, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, and 1,500m races, long jump, and softball throw events held last Friday and Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

A sweep of the first place honors in the running events in the U11 division was the deciding factor in Brilliant Star's overall title conquest in the girls elementary division.

Savita Sikkel handed Brilliant Star three gold medals after prevailing in the 100, 400m, and 800m runs, while Fiona Rogan won two golds with her victory in the 60m and 1,500m races. Irin Chung completed Brilliant Star's domination in the running events after getting the gold in the 200m race.

Chung also finished third in the 60m and 400m, while Sikkel was the runner-up in the 1,500m, and Regan came in at second in the long jump, which Koblerville's Elizabeth Chipwelong ruled.

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McDonald's keeps grassroots program running

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The All Schools Track and Field Championships is one of the few successful grassroots sports programs in the CNMI, thanks to its supporters led by McDonald's Saipan.

McDonald's has been the main corporate sponsor of the All Schools meet since 2005, helping the organizing Northern Marianas Athletes discover student-athletes who eventually represent the Commonwealth in regional and in-

See MCDONALD'S on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

McDonald's Saipan/Guam managing director and owner Marcia Ayuyu, left, presents the $3,000 check donation to Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb to support the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships. The donation turnover ceremony was held at McDonald's Middle Road last Monday with NMA's Robin Sapong, right, and Greg Iginoef, third left, PSS Public School System Athletic director Nick Gross, and a McDonald's crew witnessing the event.